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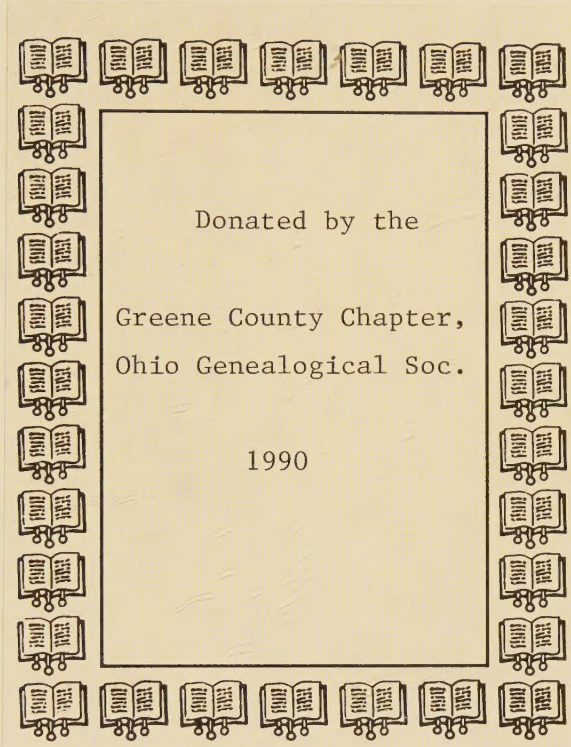
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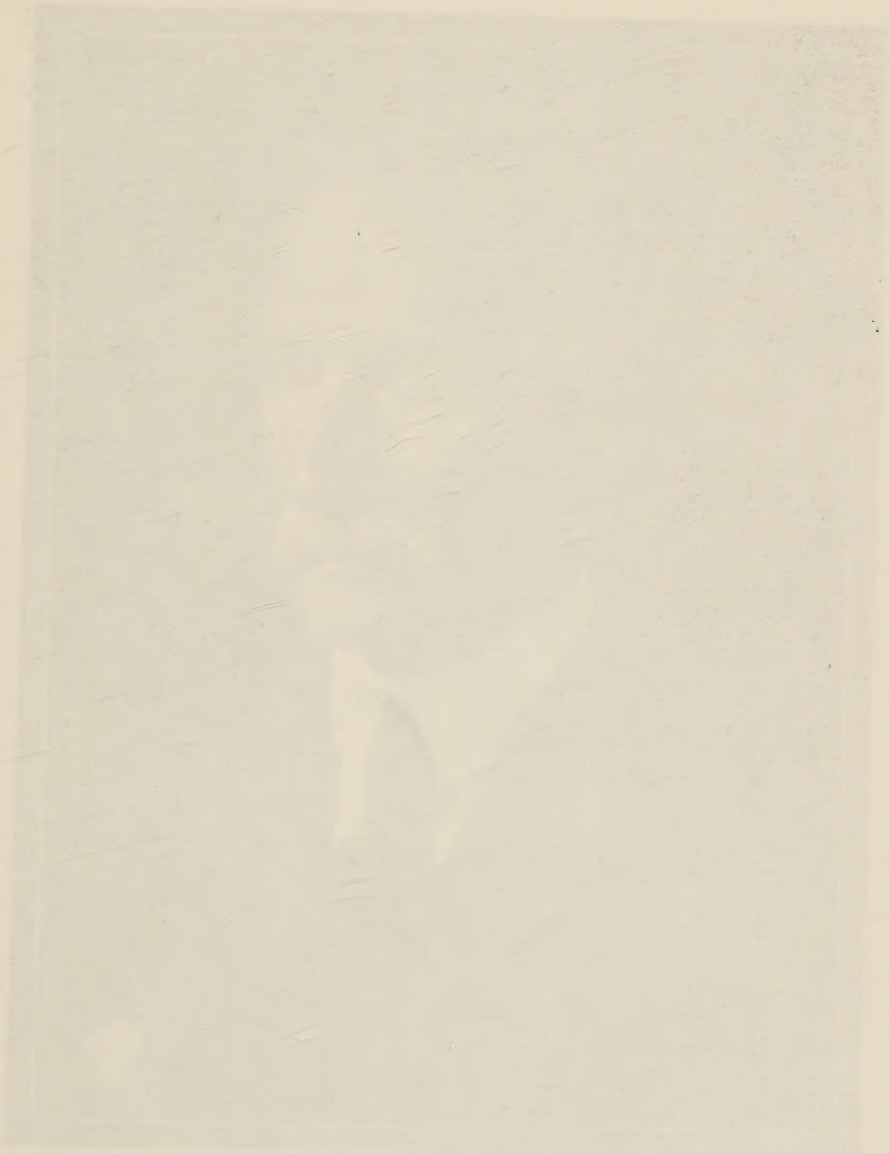

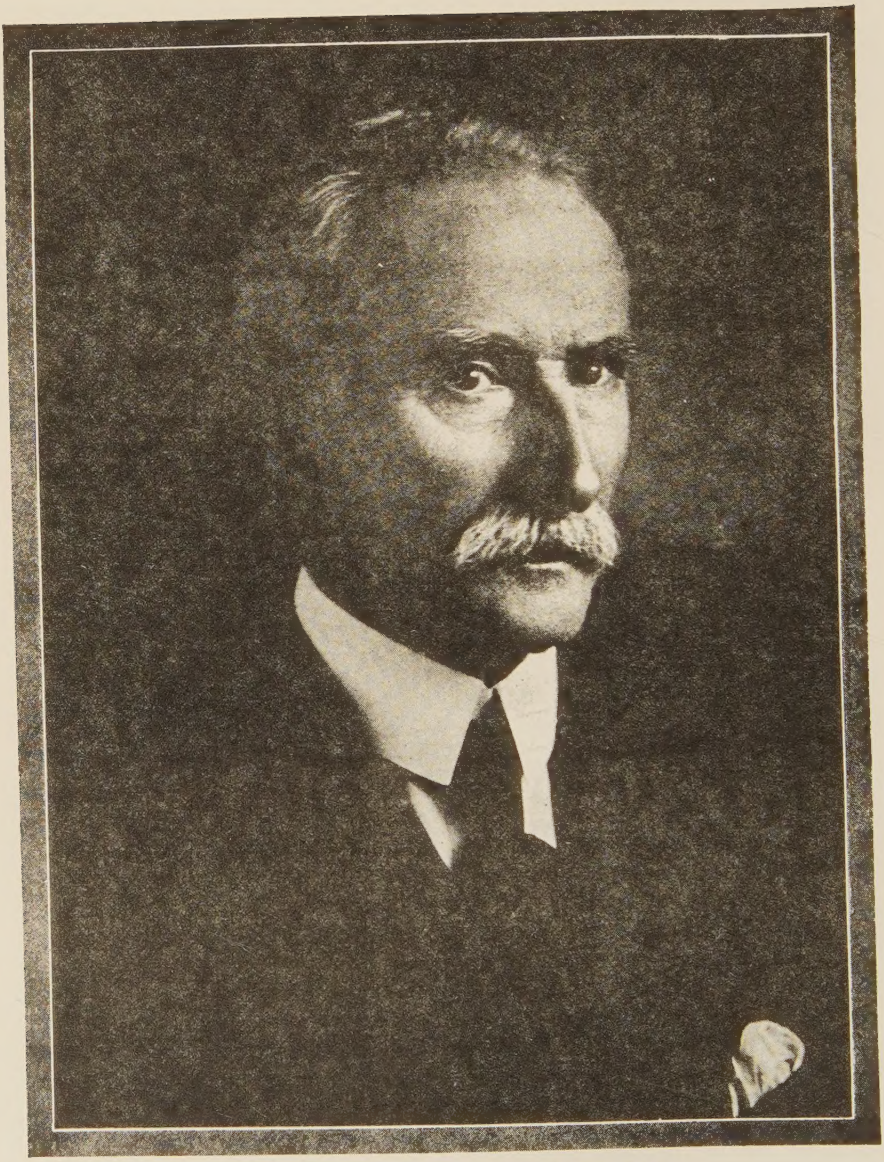

WILLIAM JAMES McMURRAY

HISTORY OF
Auglaize County
OHIO

EDITED BY
WILLIAM J. McMURRAY
Wapakoneta, Ohio

IN TWO VOLUMES
Illustrated

VOLUME II

1923
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Nineteen Hundred Eighty-Nine

Biography is the only true history.—*Emerson.*

A people that take no pride in the achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote generations. —*Macauley.*

People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors.—*Burke.*

THE COUNTY OF AUGLAIZE

DANIEL F. MOONEY

There's a land of crystal waters
And of clear and balmy air;
There's a country filled with blessings
That are surely rich and rare;
There's a shade that is refreshing
And a sunlight that has cheer;
There's a region free from sadness,
And where days are never drear.

There are fields that are so fertile
That they reap whene'er they sow;
I am singing of the situs
Where the earth's best products grow;
Where the sun in shining gladness
Sheds its most effulgent rays,
Down upon the groves and meadows
In the county of Auglaize.

CHORUS—

The Buckeye state is rich and great,
Her sons have won renown;
In every race they set the pace
In country and in town.
All, all is great within this state,
But the softest sunlight plays
Where I write my rhyme, in the premier clime,
In the county of Auglaize.

There's a people who are clever
And possessed of every grace;
There are homes of peace and plenty
In this highly favored place;
Legends cluster 'round the hearthstones
Of the place whereof I sing,
To their honor and their glory
Are the legends which thus cling.

Men and women there abiding
Typify the highest class,
Make the world a little better
And add credit to the mass.
Thus they live in peace and gladness,
In the Lord's appointed ways,
Free from angry strife and turmoil,
Do the people of Auglaize.

St. Mary's, Ohio.

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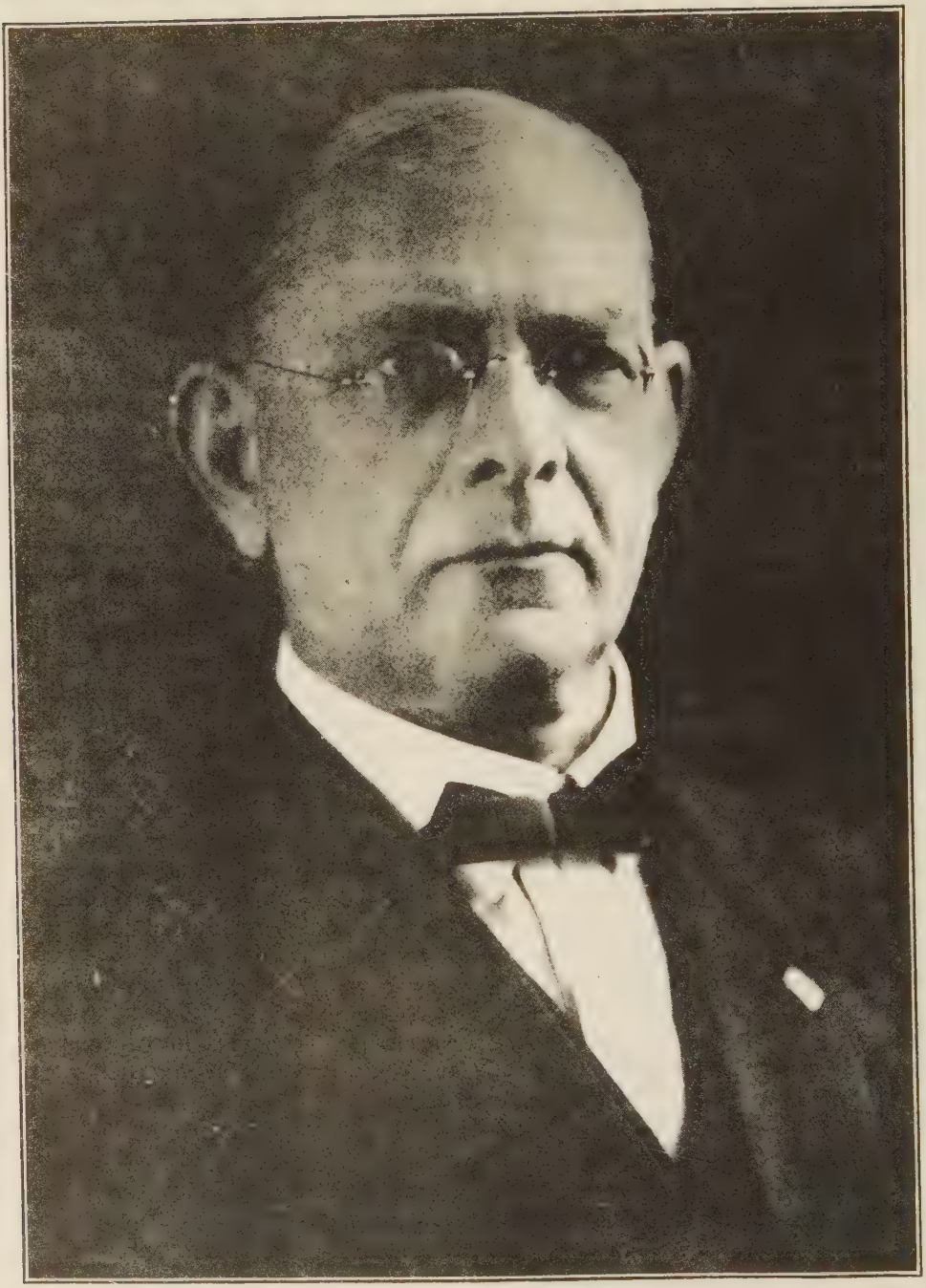


CLEMENT A. STUEVE

BIOGRAPHY

CLEMENT A. STUEVE, senior member of the law firm of Stueve & Tangeman at Wapakoneta, former mayor of that city, former judge of probate for Auglaize county, a member of the directorate of the Peoples National Bank of Wapakoneta, a onetime member of the board of school examiners for this county and in other ways for years recognized as one of the most influential factors in the general social and civil life of the community at large, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here most of his life, the exception being a period during the days of his young manhood when he was completing his studies and fitting himself for the larger sphere of influence into which he found himself logically and irresistibly drawn upon his entrance into the practice of law in this county forty years ago. Judge Stueve was born in the village of Minster on November 27, 1855, and is a son of Clemens and Elizabeth (Vogt) Stueve, both of whom were of European birth and who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their childhood. The late Clemens Stueve, who for many years was one of the most forceful figures in the general industrial life of this county, was born at Oythe, in the grand duchy of Oldenburg, at that time a constitutional ducal monarchy, but which later became a part of the German empire, September 30, 1826, and was less than eight years of age when in the summer of 1834, following the unsuccessful revolution in the Palatinate and in others of the German states, his parents, Herman H. and Catherine M. (Friedrichs) Stueve, decided to leave their native land and with their three young sons, Clemens, Bernard and Herman, come to America. This freedom-loving family took passage at Bremen on June 16, 1834, and eight days later the vessel left Bremerhaven on its trip across the Atlantic, a voyage which required nearly three months, for it was not until the following September 10 that the vessel arrived at Baltimore. In accordance with arrangements previously made, the objective of this family was the Stallo settlement which had been effected the year before at what is now the town of Minster and which then was located in Mercer county, this state, and from Baltimore the family proceeded to Wheeling, whence boat passage was secured to Cincinnati, at which latter

place the family arrived on October 8. At Cincinnati, Herman H. Stueve secured a Conestoga wagon and a teamster and with such treasured family possessions as had been brought from the old country and such new furniture of an essential character as was procured at Cincinnati, he and his family began the toilsome trip up into this part of Ohio. The fact that this journey required a bit more than a month in the making, for the family did not arrive at Stallo Town (Minster) until November 9, is its own illuminating commentary on the progress that has been made in the matter of highway transportation during the past eighty-eight years. A mere pleasant day's drive these days. It is to comparisons of this sort that the attention of the younger readers of these reviews is particularly invited. Upon his arrival at Stallo Town, which, as will be noted by reference to the history of the Minster community set out elsewhere in this work, at that time was but a scattered collection of newly built log cabins in the wilderness along the old Wayne trail, Herman H. Stueve, who was a carpenter by vocation, set about getting up a house for his family. The saw mills had not yet begun to penetrate this section and this skilled carpenter and joiner found himself confronted by a problem that had perplexities upon which he had not counted. Woodscraft architecture was something new to him and the raising of a house of logs offered architectural difficulties that might not readily have been overcome even by this master carpenter without the helpful instruction and assistance of those of his new neighbors who previously had been able to profit by the instructions in primitive woodcraft so generously offered by the "yankee" backwoodsmen who had generously and gladly given of their help in all the new steps being taken by these newcomers from another land. It is a fact, noted by many of the commentators on the history of pioneer days in Ohio, that perhaps the chief difficulty which confronted the German settlers in this state was that attending the erection of their log cabins and that in the beginning they found it necessary to rely upon their yankee neighbors to show them the "short cuts" in the process of getting up a serviceable home in the woods. However, it did not take Mr. Stueve long to adjust himself to the new conditions and he straightway became a valued factor in the development of that community. The saw mills presently came in and he continued his activities as a builder for nearly fifteen years thereafter, or until he fell a victim to the dreadful cholera scourge which swept over that community not long after work on the building of the canal was begun, his death occurring on July 28, 1849. His wife had preceded him to the grave a little more than a year, her death having occurred on April 26, 1848. They had four children, Clemens Stueve having had a sister, Gertrude, who was born here and who died in infancy at Minster, and the two brothers, Bernard and Herman, the latter of

whom died in 1869, of yellow fever, in Galveston, Tex. Herman H. Steuve, in addition to the valuable service he rendered in the Minster community, of which he was a pioneer, as a carpenter and builder, took well his part in the civic life of the new community and was a member of the town council at the time of his death. His son Clemens in his turn also took his part in the civil life of the community and as he grew into favor served in turn as town clerk and then as town councilman and in other ways assumed his share in public service. Clemens Stueve grew up familiar with the pioneer conditions that necessarily were imposed upon the people of the Stallo settlement and under the direction of his father became a skilled carpenter, and also served an apprenticeship as a wagon maker. He was still in his boyhood when work on the canal was begun in this part of the state and, in common with most of the boys and young men of the settlement, took a part in the labors of that great public work, aiding in the construction of the Grand Reservoir. When the canal was completed he started a saw mill at Minster and with the new market opened for lumber by the operation of the canal did a thriving business, continuing thus engaged until in February, 1856, when he sold his lumber plant to advantage and then took a prospecting trip through the West, investigating conditions in Missouri, Kansas and Iowa, as well as in Indiana and Illinois, but returned to Minster upon the completion of this trip and there became engaged in general merchandising, to which line he presently added pork packing and dealing in grain. Thus he found his way again to be helpfully useful in the community in which he had elected definitely to put in his part and in that way steadfastly walked to the end, and it was not long until he generally was recognized hereabout as one of the most substantial citizens of northwestern Ohio. Unhappily, following the stress of "hard times" which came about following the panic in 1873 he found his obligations exerting a strain upon his fortune which could not easily be overcome and his business interests suffered accordingly. Thereafter he lived practically retired from business pursuits, though maintaining a helpful influence in the community. From Minster he moved to Anna, down in Shelby county, and thence some time later to Wapakoneta, where he took over the management of the old Henry House and was thus for some years engaged in the hotel business at the county seat. His last days were spent at Wapakoneta, his death occurring there on August 16, 1896, he then being just under seventy years of age. Clemens Stueve was twice married. In 1848 he was united in marriage to Elizabeth M. Vogt, who was born at Vechta in the grand duchy of Oldenburg on August 18, 1829, and who had come to this country with her parents in the days of her youth. To that union were born five children, two sons and three daughters, all of whom are now deceased save

Judge Stueve and his sister, Mrs. Catherine E. Johnston. The mother of these children died on June 10, 1863, and in the following September, Clemens Stueve married Mary Westbrock. To this latter union four sons were born. Clement A. Stueve, third in order of birth of the children born to Clemens and Elizabeth M. (Vogt) Stueve, was born on November 27, 1855, and was reared at Minster, where he received his early schooling. This was supplemented by a course in the Toledo high school and in a business college at Cincinnati, the latter course being completed in the fall of 1873. Upon his return to Minster he became employed there in clerical work and remained at home for three years, or until in September, 1876, when he became employed in a similar capacity at Decatur, Ind. A year later he returned to Cincinnati, but after less than a year of employment in that city returned to Auglaize county and at Wapakoneta took up the study of law under the preceptorship of R. D. Marshall and about that time also became employed as an assistant in the office of the county treasurer. In 1880 Mr. Marshall moved his law office to Dayton and in 1881 Mr. Stueve followed his preceptor to that city and under this direction completed his law studies and in June, 1882, was admitted to the bar. Thus qualified to practice the profession to which he had devoted himself he returned to Wapakoneta and in January, 1883, became associated in practice with F. C. Layton, afterward member of Congress from this district and present judge of the court of common pleas. This mutually agreeable partnership continued until in 1898 when the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Stueve formed a partnership with the late J. J. Connaughton, an arrangement which continued until his election to the bench of the probate court in 1902. By re-election Judge Stueve served as probate judge until February 9, 1909, when he resumed his practice at Wapakoneta and has since been thus engaged, one of the leading lawyers in northwestern Ohio. In 1911 he entered into a partnership arrangement with Theo H. Tangeman, one of the recognized leaders of the local bar, and this law firm has since been carrying on under the firm name of Stueve & Tangeman, with offices in the Brown Theater building at Wapakoneta. Judge Stueve for years has been regarded as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in this district, and has rendered yeoman service in behalf of that party. In his law student days he served as town clerk of Wapakoneta (1880-81) and later (1888-91) as mayor of the town. He also has served as a member of the county board of school examiners and in other ways has taken his part in public service. He was judge of the probate court when the juvenile court was created and in this latter behalf rendered valuable service in the organization of the new court. Besides his law practice he has other interests and is a member of the board of directors of the Peoples National Bank of

Wapakoneta. He and his wife are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church and he is a past grand knight of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, a member of St. Martin's Benevolent Society, of the local Swabian society and of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. On October 17, 1882, shortly following his admission to the bar, Clement A. Stueve was united in marriage to Mary A. Dickman, daughter of Theodore and Mary (Weinmar) Dickman, of Wapakoneta, and to this union five children have been born, Richard C., Winfred H., Theodore F. (deceased), Thecla and Marianne. Mrs. Stueve is a sister of Gen. Joseph T. Dickman (retired), of the United States army, who led the Army of Occupation into Germany following the close of the World War in the fall of 1918 and concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work.

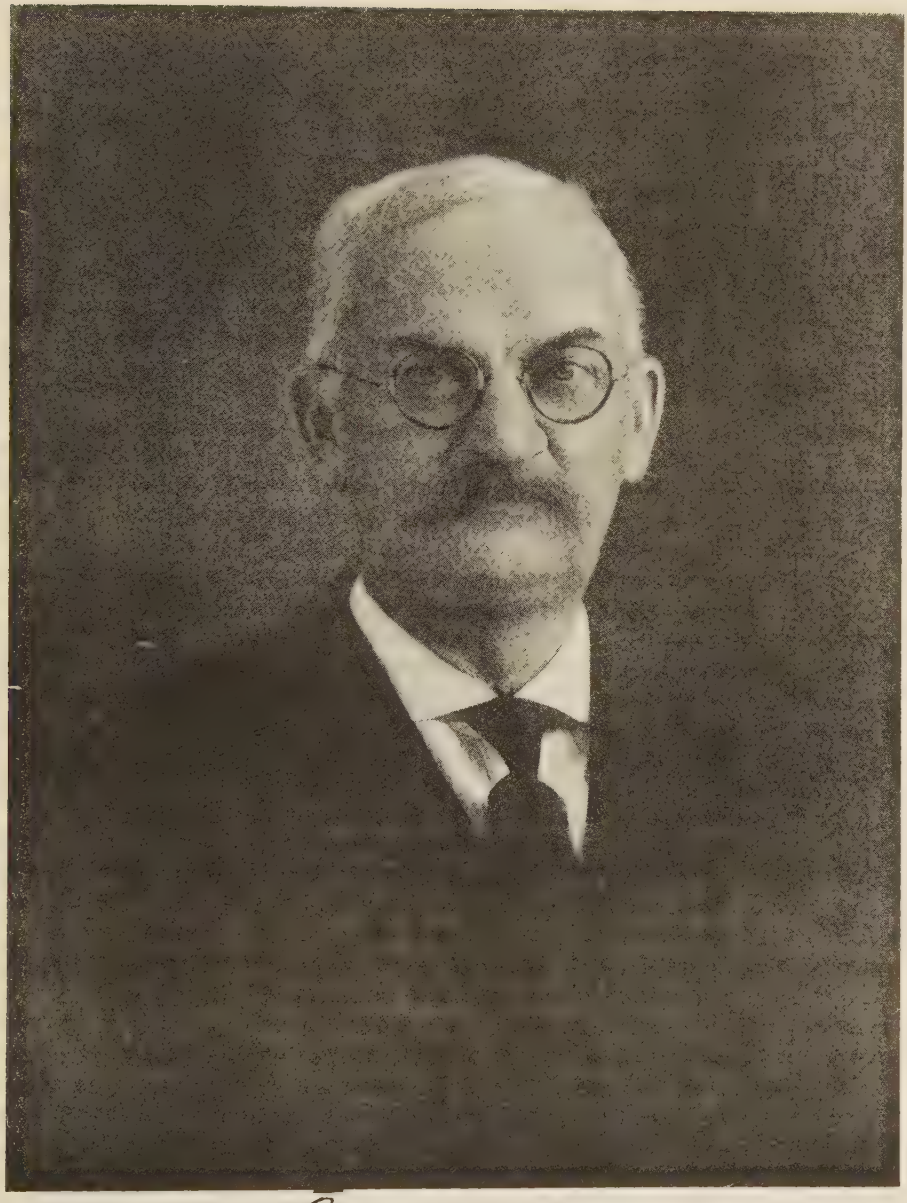
FRED A. KLIPFEL, mayor of Wapakoneta and secretary and manager of the Citizens Building and Loan Company, has had extensive and valuable training in municipal affairs, having served as clerk of the town, later as city auditor and is now serving his second term as mayor, bringing to his administration an accumulation of experience which has proved valuable to the community in many ways in the exercise of his executive prerogatives. Mayor Klipfel is a native son of Wapakoneta and has lived in that city all his life, receiving his schooling and business training there and is thus familiar not only with the history and traditions of the place but with its essential civic needs, so that he is able to bring to his administrative office a ripened judgment that among his associates lends much weight to his estimate of public affairs. The mayor was born on September 26, 1878, and is thus in the very prime of his useful career. He is a son of August W. and Mary (Bitler) Klipfel, both of whom also were born in this county, members of old families here, and the latter of whom is still living. The late August W. Klipfel was for thirty years engaged in the transfer business at Wapakoneta and then became engaged in the grocery business there, which business he carried on until his death in 1919. To him and his wife were born two sons, Mayor Klipfel having a brother, Arthur A. Klipfel, cashier of the Auglaize National Bank at Wapakoneta. Upon his graduation from the Wapakoneta high school, Fred A. Klipfel entered his father's grocery store and for fourteen years thereafter devoted his attention to that business. In the meantime he had taken an interest in the promotion of the Citizens Building and Loan Company at Wapakoneta, becoming connected with that concern in its "day of small things," and on June 1, 1899, was made secretary of the company, carrying on the clerical details of the organization in the office of the grocery store. With the gradual expansion of the company's business it after awhile became necessary to outfit a more

adequate office for the concern and the present quarters on Auglaize street were secured, since which time (in 1912) Mr. Klipfel has been devoting his undivided attention to the company's affairs, continuing as secretary and manager of the concern, at the same time finding time to carry on his official duties in connection with the administration of the city's affairs. Busy men are constantly being asked to assume new responsibilities. They are the ones who get things done and this quality is quickly recognized. When, back in the present city's village days, Fred Klipfel was elected village clerk the people knew he had this capacity for getting things done, and he proved his usefulness in that clerical position. It was on January 1, 1908, that he entered upon the duties of village clerk. For four years he continued thus engaged, the city in the meantime beginning to function under its city charter, and Mr. Klipfel was elected city auditor, entering upon the duties of that office on January 1, 1912. In this latter capacity he also served for four years and then was elected mayor of the city, entering upon his administrative duties on January 1, 1916, and serving by re-election until January 1, 1920, thus occupying this important administrative office during the period of America's participation in the World war, a period which entailed many new and in some instances trying duties in the offices of the executives of American cities. In 1921 Mr. Klipfel again was elected mayor and on January 1, 1922, resumed that office for a term of two years, thus again exercising his administrative talents in behalf of the city. During the days of the old Wapakoneta Commercial Club, Mr. Klipfel served for some years as secretary of that organization and he also is one of the active factors in the present commercial organization at Wapakoneta, the Chamber of Commerce. He has been a member of the official council of the English Lutheran church at Wapakoneta for twelve years and for four years served as secretary of the church body. He is affiliated with the local lodges of the Freemasons, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles and is one of the active members of the local Kiwanis Club, whose motto is "We Build," and which organization has of late been doing much to promote the general interests of the new Wapakoneta. On October 23, 1902, Fred A. Klipfel was united in marriage to Katherine L. Morey, who also was born in this county, daughter of Andrew J. and Sophia (McMurray) Morey, the former of whom was born in Licking county, this state, and the latter in Campbell county, Kentucky. To this union three children have been born, Augustus W., who was graduated from the Blume high school (Wapakoneta) and is now a student at Wittenberg College, and Frederic A. and Mary Katherine, who are still in high school. Mayor Klipfel is a Democrat and has for years been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in this county and throughout the district.

WILLIAM D. CLOVER, vice president of the Neeley-Clover Company, oil producers, at St. Marys, and for years recognized as one of the important factors in the development of the oil fields in Ohio, is a Pennsylvanian by birth, but has been a resident of Ohio since the days of the uncovering of the great Lima oil field and there are few men in the oil industry who have a wider acquaintance than he or whose activities along that line have been more varied and comprehensive. Mr. Clover was born at Salem, Pa., June 20, 1865, and is a son of Henry B. and Agnes (Neeley) Clover, both of whom also were born in that state and whose last days were spent in St. Marys, to which place they moved some time after their sons had become active in the oil business there. Reared in Pennsylvania, William D. Clover received his schooling there and as a young man became interested in oil development, becoming engaged in development work then going on in New York state, and there laid the foundation for the comprehensive knowledge of the oil industry now possessed by him. When the Lima oil field was opened in the late '80s Mr. Clover came to Ohio and got in on the "boom" that then was attracting so much attention throughout this part of the state. He took an active part in several developments that marked that boom and in 1887 became attracted to the possibilities of the St. Marys field, he and his brother, M. K. Clover, taking a hand in the rich development that soon thereafter followed in that field. In 1890 these brothers and their cousins, the Neeley brothers, associated themselves in this development work and not long afterward formed the Neeley-Clover Company, which ever since has been one of the big factors in the oil industry, heavy producers not only in Ohio but in Indiana, Texas, Oklahoma and Pennsylvania, and of which company William D. Clover is the vice-president. This company also has leases in Kentucky and West Virginia and Mr. Clover likewise is a considerable stockholder in the Lemon G. Neeley Company and the Iron Mountain Company, the offices of which latter companies are at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mr. Clover is a Scottish Rite (32°) Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with the blue lodge, the chapter and the council of the Masonic order at St. Marys and with the consistory and shrine at Dayton, and is also a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at St. Marys. In his political views he is a Democrat. In 1895, some years after he had taken up his residence at St. Marys, William D. Clover was united in marriage to Emma Scott, who was born in this county, daughter of Thomas and Amanda (Good) Scott, and to this union six children have been born, three of whom are living, Hazel, Orville and Robert, all of whom have been graduated from the St. Marys high school. The deceased children of this family were Scott, John and Walter.

Mr. and Mrs. Clover have a very pleasant home in St. Marys and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in such movements as have been designed to promote the general welfare of the community.

JASON H. MANCHESTER, a retired farmer of Goshen township, now living at Wapakoneta, where he has made his home for years, and who is recognized as the largest individual landowner in Auglaize county, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of this county since the days of his youth. Mr. Manchester was born at Raymond, in Union county, Ohio, March 21, 1853, and is a son of Philander and Rebecca (Hewitt) Manchester, both of whom were born and reared in Vermont, where they were married. Not long after their marriage, Philander Manchester and wife came to Ohio, intent upon making their home in this state. They drove through in a buggy, one of the members of the party being Mrs. Manchester's sister, and settled in Morrow county. Not long after establishing their home there, Mrs. Manchester's sister died and temporary interment was made in the local cemetery which had been established by the pioneers of that neighborhood, but a year later the body was disinterred and taken back to the old family burying ground in Vermont, the sorrowful journey being made in a spring wagon, Mr. and Mrs. Manchester thus twice making the long overland trip within a period of three years. Upon their return to Ohio they resumed their pioneering in Morrow county, but after awhile moved to Fredericktown, in the adjacent county of Knox, where they resided for several years, and then moved over farther west and located at Raymond, in Union county, where Mr. Manchester became engaged in the mercantile business, establishing there a general store. He remained there until 1865, when he became attracted to the development of lands over in Auglaize county, and disposed of his interests at Raymond and came over here, settling on a 200-acre farm he had bought in lot No. 2 of the Virginia military lands tract in Goshen township. As has been set out elsewhere in this work, the land in that part of the county was not considered by any means the most desirable land in the county, but Mr. Manchester had the pluck and the perseverence to make the most of what at the time seemed to him a pretty hard proposition in the way of development and in due time had a good farm there. As his affairs prospered he demonstrated his confidence in the outcome of the land there by adding to his holdings from time to time, until he came to be the owner of between 600 and 700 acres of land, the nucleus of the present great Manchester farm there, and on that place he and his wife spent their last days, helpful and influential factors in the development of that community. They were the parents of two children, Fay and Jason H., the former of whom died when twenty-one years of age. Jason H. Manchester was twelve years of age



J. T. Manchester

when he came to Auglaize county with his parents in 1865, and he completed his public schooling in the somewhat primitive little school maintained then in the neighborhood of his home in Goshen township, supplementing this by a two years' course in the normal school at West Randolph, Vt., his father sending him East to get a bit of "yankee" training in preparation for the big job of farm development he was getting in hand for him. Upon his return from the East, he buckled down to the task awaiting him on the farm and became an efficient aid to his father in helping carry out the latter's program of farm development. His father presently gave him a portion of the home acres, and following the death of his parents he came into the whole of the considerable estate, to which he continued to add, until now he has land holdings aggregating 2,800 acres, all of which lies in Goshen township, save a tract of 343 acres over the line in the neighboring county of Hardin, and a tract of 440 acres which he has acquired in Kosciusko county, Indiana. During the years in which Mr. Manchester has been developing this great estate he has carried on there an improvement program that has caused the Manchester farm to become recognized as one of the model farms in the middle West, and he certainly has on the central farm one of the model farm plants in all Ohio. Some years ago Mr. Manchester secured a comfortable town house at the corner of Court and Main streets, in Wapakoneta, and has since been living there, practically retired from the active duties of the farm, which he rents out by "grain rent," the general direction of the farm interests now being in the hands of his son, Crosby M. Manchester, who makes his home on the old home place, which has been improved in admirable fashion. Mr. Manchester is a Republican and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, continuing to maintain his connection with the congregation of that church at Roundhead, the village on the Sciota over east in Hardin county, not far from his home place. On March 4, 1385, Jason H. Manchester was united in marriage to Laura L. Krebs, of Waynesfield, who died on the home farm on May 25, 1919. Mrs. Manchester was born at Waynesfield, this county, and was a daughter of Dr. Rufus I. and Lucina (Myers) Krebs, the latter of whom was born in Licking county, this state. Dr. Rufus I. Krebs was a Pennsylvanian, born at Littletown, Pa., in 1832, a son of Isaac and Esther Krebs, Virginians. Doctor Krebs was graduated from the medical college of the University of Pennsylvania in 1853, and not long afterward came to Ohio and opened an office for the practice of his profession at Portsmouth, where he remained for about five years, or until 1858, when he came to Auglaize county and established himself in practice at Waynesfield, where for many years he exerted a fine influence upon that community and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there on January

19, 1900. Doctor and Mrs. Krebs had three children, Mrs. Manchester having had a sister, Jennie, wife of Ira Harrod, and a brother, Francis G. Krebs. Mrs. Manchester was a graduate of Ohio Northern University at Ada, and also for some time attended Cincinnati Medical College and was preparing to follow her father's profession at the time of her marriage. To Jason H. and Laura L. (Krebs) Manchester were born two sons, Hewitt K., born in 1890, who died in February, 1892, and Crosby M., born on December 13, 1892. Crosby M. Manchester, who is now farming on an extensive scale on the old home place in Goshen township, and to whom 1,900 acres of his father's big estate have been set off in his own right, was graduated from the Roundhead high school in 1909 and then entered the agricultural college of Ohio State University, from which he was graduated in 1912, since which time he has devoted his attention to the further development of the Manchester agricultural interests, bringing to this development all the latest and most approved methods of the agricultural schools. On March 4, 1914, Crosby M. Manchester was united in marriage to Ruth May, one of his former classmates in the Roundhead school, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, John, born on October 27, 1915, and Crosby M. Jr., July 26, 1918. Mrs. Ruth Manchester was born at Roundhead and was graduated from the high school at that place with the class of 1909, later attending Harcourt College at Gambier, Ohio, from which she was graduated in 1911. She is a daughter of John W. and Mary (Bowdle) May, and has two sisters, Mrs. Earl Harrod and Grace. Mr. and Mrs. Crosby M. Manchester are members of the Roundhead Methodist Episcopal church and are Republicans.

THEO PURPUS, justice of the peace in and for German township, formerly and for years editor and proprietor of the *Stern des Westlichen Ohio* ("Star of Western Ohio"), formerly and for years a teacher in the schools of New Bremen, for forty years the secretary of the Concordia Building and Loan Association of that place and for many years engaged in the general insurance business there, one of the best known citizens of Auglaize county, is a European by birth but has been a resident of New Bremen since the days of his majority and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the development of that community for more than half a century. Mr. Purpus was born in Rhenish Bavaria (then a part of the old Germanic Confederation) on November 6, 1844, and is a son of Louis and Louise (Kohl) Purpus, also Bavarians, who came with their family to America in 1866 and whose last days were spent at New Bremen, where they had settled upon coming to this country. Louis Purpus was a brewer by vocation and after taking up his residence at New Bremen acquired a brewery in the village and in association with his son Edward Purpus operated this brewery until his retirement from active business

some years before his death. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Louise, wife of John Gemmer. As will be noted by a comparison of dates above, Theo Purpus was just past his majority when he came to this country with his parents in the spring of 1866. He had received excellent schooling in his home land and for some time before coming here had been employed in the office of the provincial treasurer, where he had acquired much valuable training in business forms. For some months after his arrival at New York he remained in that city, absorbing there much of useful information regarding the customs of the people among whom he had elected to cast his lot, and then came to New Bremen, where in the fall of 1868 he was employed as a teacher in the local schools. So satisfactory were his services as a teacher that he was retained in the schools thereafter for many years, or until his retirement from the school room in 1882, his growing interests of another character by that time requiring his undivided attention. In 1873, when the old New Bremen Building, Loan and Savings Association was organized Mr. Purpus was elected secretary of the organization and so continued until its liquidation in 1881. Upon leaving the school room in 1882 Mr. Purpus bought the plant of the German language newspaper, the *Stern des Westlichen Ohio*, which not long before had been established at Minster by John Schieffer, and as editor and proprietor of that newspaper continued for more than twenty years to exercise in that community an even more widely expressed influence than had been exerted by him through his position in the school room. When in 1883 the present Concordia Building and Loan Association was organized at New Bremen to carry on the work formerly undertaken by the other building and loan association, Mr. Purpus was elected secretary of this latter organization and has ever since been serving in that capacity, one of the best known factors in the building and loan line in western Ohio. Upon retiring from the newspaper business about twenty years ago, Mr. Purpus accepted the position of manager of the New Bremen Telephone Company, but did not retain that position long, his energies seeking an outlet in another direction, and it was then that he took up the insurance line in which he since has been so successfully engaged, carrying on this business in addition to his activities in connection with the building and loan association, and has done well. Mr. Purpus is a Democrat and has for many years been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in his part of the county. Some time ago he rendered public service as assessor of German township and he now is serving as justice of the peace in and for that township, his mature judgment and wide experience in affairs eminently qualifying him for this magisterial function. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and their

children were reared in that faith. It was in 1869, two years after taking up his duties as schoolmaster at New Bremen, that Theo Purpus was united in marriage to Antoinette Volckell, daughter of William Volckell, and to this union eight children were born, of whom six are now living, Theo J., Louise, Alfred, Adolph, Otto and Leo, the latter of whom married Pearl Cleveland and has one child, a daughter, Antoinette. Louise Purpus married Gustave Gilberg and has four children, Pauline, Louis, Theodora and Vera. Adolph Purpus married Eva Hamilton.

ERNEST M. VEENFLIET, secretary and treasurer of the St. Marys Woolen Manufacturing Company at St. Marys, vice-president of the Home Banking Company of that city, and for years one of the most influential factors in the commercial and industrial life of Auglaize county, was born at Blumfield, in Saginaw county, Michigan, August 17, 1855, and is a son of George F. and Caroline (Kremer) Veenfliet, both of whom were of European birth, the latter born at Denslaken, Germany, February 25, 1814, but whose last days were spent in this country, residents of Michigan, where they had settled seventy-five years ago. George F. Veenfliet was born in Germany on April 2, 1813, and finished his schooling at the University of Bonn. His father was a manufacturer of knit goods and yarn, and some time after his marriage he succeeded to that business, operating a factory at Wesel, on the Rhine, and was thus engaged until following the civil disturbance which drove so many freedom-loving Germans out of that country in 1848, he disposed of his interests there and with his family came to America. He was possessed of ample means, a portion of which he invested in the purchase of several thousand acres of the land then being opened to settlement in Saginaw county, Michigan, and on that tract created the nucleus around which settled an energetic group of German colonists, under his direction, and there established the township of Blumfield, which was given its name in honor of the memory of Robert Blum, one of the heroes and martyrs of the revolution of 1848, who in that year was elected vice-president of the provisional parliament at Frankfort, ruling that turbulent assemblage by sheer presence of mind and stentorian voice. When the people of Vienna rose in the following October, he joined the insurgents there and was arrested and shot, his execution causing an indignant outcry among the democrats of Germany. George F. Veenfliet, as leader of this colony in Michigan, became a man of much influence in the formative period of that section of the state and was called to public service right from the start, serving variously as state immigration officer, as recorder of Saginaw county, as county treasurer and as representative from that district in the state Legislature. Upon the organization of the Republican party, he became an ardent advocate of the principles of that

E. W. Wemple

party and was a delegate from his district to the Republican national convention which, at Chicago, in 1860, nominated Abraham Lincoln for the presidency. During the Civil war he served as enrolling officer for his district and in other ways gave of his time and talents to the service of the public and of his adopted country, continuing in the public service until his retirement to the extensive farm which he meanwhile had been developing in the township of Blumfield, and where his last days were spent, his death occurring there on April 3, 1896, he then being one day past eighty-three years of age. His widow survived him for six years, her death occurring in April, 1902, she then being past eighty-eight years of age. They were members of the German Evangelical church, and their children were reared in that faith. Two of these children, sons both, they brought with them from Germany. Both of these sons, Richard and Fred A., served as soldiers of the Union during the Civil war, and the latter, a lieutenant, was killed at the battle of Nashville. The first child born to George F. Veenfliet and wife after their settlement at Blumfield was the first white child born in Blumfield township. Ernest M. Veenfliet, the eighth in order of birth of the children of this earnest pioneer couple, was reared at Blumfield and thus was a witness to and a boyish participant in the strenuous labors accompanying the development of an American timber settlement "out of the raw." As schools were one of the first considerations of these colonists among whom he was reared, he suffered no lack of primary schooling, and thus prepared was sent to Union College, at Schnectady, N. Y., from which he was graduated in 1876, in his twenty-first year, with the degree of civil engineer, his studies having been especially directed toward preparation for railroad work, the tremendous program of railway construction then being carried out creating a call for railway engineers which hardly could be filled. The Lake Erie & Louisville railroad then was being constructed, the survey for this line extending down from Fremont to St. Marys, and thence to Louisville, and Mr. Veenfliet was given a position as an assistant civil engineer on this construction, it being thus that he became introduced to St. Marys and the influences which afterward caused him to become a resident of that city, for it was as a young civil engineer just out of college that he met and courted the St. Marys girl who presently became his wife, and it was through his initial acquaintance formed there during the period of his stay in the town as a civil engineer that the business alliance afterward so agreeably formed came about. When the L. E. & L. railway reached St. Marys, in 1877, the company promoting the construction of the road decided to change the survey and make of their line a western instead of a southern connection, and the road was completed on west instead of along the line of the original survey, and

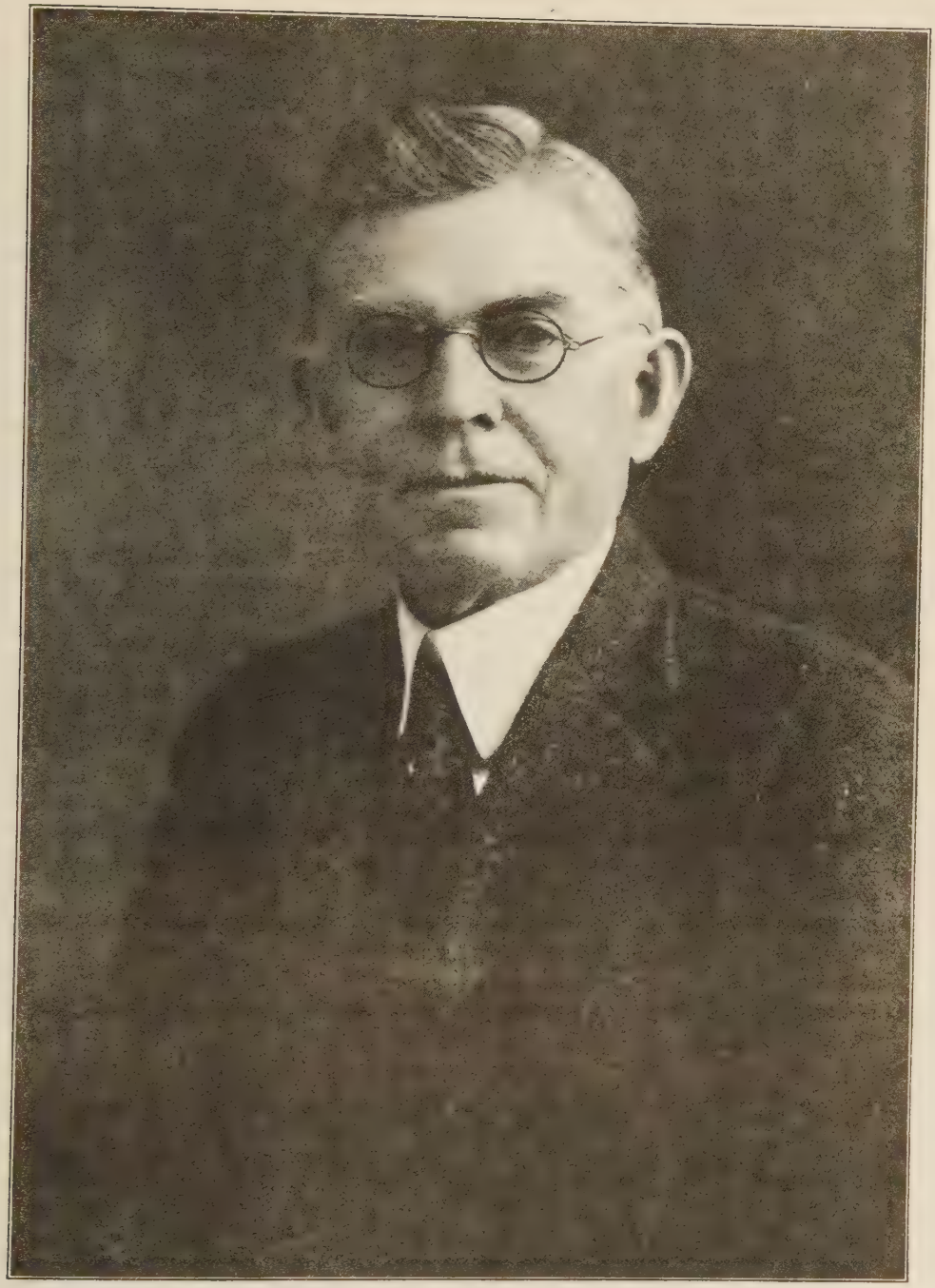
thus became the Lake Erie & Western road instead of the Lake Erie & Louisville road, and Mr. Veenfliet was one of the engineers who laid out the new lines. He remained with the L. E. & W. for two or three years, or until 1879, when he transferred his connection to the line now known as the Pere Marquette road, and was assistant engineer of that line for two years, or until 1881, when he became the assistant engineer of the Wabash Terminal road at Detroit. In the meantime he had been keeping in close touch with developing conditions at St. Marys, for in 1880 he had married the St. Marys girl who had proved so strong an attraction during the time of his stay there on the Lake Erie job, and in 1887, when the breath of life was being blown anew into the old woolen mills at that place, he accepted an opportunity to participate in the reorganization of the concern and was elected treasurer of the St. Marys Woolen Manufacturing Company, took up his residence at St. Marys, and has ever since given his attention to the work of the woolen mills, one of the best known wool men in the country. In 1912 Mr. Veenfliet's duties and responsibilities in the mill were increased by his election as secretary of the company, and since then he has been filling the dual position of secretary and treasurer. He has other business interests in the town, is a member of the board of directors and vice-president of the Home Banking Company, a member of the directorate of the Elm Grove Cemetery Association, and in other ways interested in movements designed to promote the common good hereabout. He is a Freemason, as was his father, and is a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with the temple of that order at Dayton, having entered the temple through the Scottish Rite of the Masonic order, and is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. It was on March 11, 1880, that Ernest M. Veenfliet was united in marriage at St. Marys to Minnie Althausen, daughter of Albert and Louise (Herzing) Althausen, of that city, and to this union three children have been born, Lulu, and Albert (deceased), and Erma, the latter of whom married Sayre Broadhead and is now living at Denver, Col. The late Albert Veenfliet was born at St. Marys on December 16, 1884, and was graduated from the high school there in 1902. He then entered Harvard University, from which he was graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1906, after which he entered the law school of Harvard, from which he was graduated in 1909, meanwhile having taken a year of European travel, during which time he took a course in the Dresden Polytechnic School. Upon the completion of his law studies at Harvard, he returned to St. Marys and there died, in that same year (1909), from an attack of meningitis. Mrs. Veenfliet's father, the late Albert Althausen, pioneer banker of St. Marys, and also formerly and for years a directing force in the

woolen mills there, was in his day one of the most influential factors in the development of the commercial and industrial life of that town and left a good memory there, even as did her maternal grandfather, Philip Herzing, who was a pioneer mill man at St. Marys and a prime force in the social life of the town in its formative period, and who was the father of Albert Herzing, present president of the St. Marys Woolen Manufacturing Company and close business associate of Mr. Veenfliet, the two forming a most agreeable and effective combination in the direction of the mill's wide interests.

BERT T. BLUME, clerk of Auglaize county, was born at Wapakoneta on July 9, 1866, and has been a resident of that city all his life, for years one of the best known men in this section of Ohio. Mr. Blume is a son of Leon and Eleanor (Beer) Blume, the latter of whom also was born in Ohio, a native of Miami county. Leon Blume, who died at his home in Wapakoneta in 1888, was a native of France, who upon crossing the Atlantic spent some time in Montreal, Canada, and then came to Ohio and became a resident of Auglaize county, locating at the picturesque village of St. Johns, where he became engaged in the mercantile business and where for some time he also operated an "ashery," an industry which in the days when the timber cumbered the earth hereabout was a quite important one, the ashes being utilized for their potash content. He later made his home at Wapakoneta, where his last days were spent, and at his passing left a good memory, for he had made many friends in the country of his adoption and his surviving contemporaries hold him in pleasant remembrance. Bert T. Blume received his schooling in the excellent public schools of Wapakoneta and as a young man became engaged in the service of the Wapakoneta Wheel Works, with which concern he continued to be connected for a period of fifteen years, his service during the latter part of this period being that of salesman for the company. In 1908 Mr. Blume was appointed deputy state oil inspector for this section of Ohio, during the administration of Governor Harris, and served in that capacity for eight months, or until his appointment to the position of assistant to the postmaster at Wapakoneta, a position he retained until his election in the memorable election of 1920 to the office of clerk of the court for Auglaize county, the first Republican ever elected to that office in this county, his majority over his Democratic opponent in that election being more than 1,200 votes. For many years Mr. Blume had been looked upon as one of the mainstays of the Republican party in this traditionally Democratic county and his friends hailed his election as a partial and highly deserved reward for the many sacrifices he willingly had made in times past in behalf of the party interest. Mr. Blume is a Mason, a member of the local Masonic lodge at Wapakoneta, and is a past exalted ruler of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Pro-

tective Order of Elks at that place. On April 3, 1893, Bert T. Blume was united in marriage to Catherine O'Neill and to this union five children have been born, Naomi, Helen, Myron, Betty and Bob. Naomi Blume is the wife of Arthur Bitler. Helen Blume married Harry Van Skiver and has two children, daughters both, Mary Eleanor and Jean Christina. Mrs. Blume's father, Cornelius O'Neill, was a former resident of Miami county, later and for years a resident of Auglaize county and is now living at Springfield, Ohio.

J. HENRY GROTHAUS, president of the First National Bank of New Bremen, former treasurer of Auglaize county, and for years recognized as one of the leading figures in the civic and commercial life of this county, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has been a resident of this state all his life, a resident of New Bremen since the days of his childhood. Mr. Grothaus was born on a farm in VanBuren township, in the neighboring county of Shelby, February 20, 1859, and is a son of William and Eliza (Lanfersieck) Grothaus, the latter of whom was born in Auglaize county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here. William Grothaus was born in the kingdom of Hanover, December 23, 1824, and was but fourteen years of age when he came to this country "on his own" and located in Pennsylvania, where for some time he worked as a farm hand, presently going to Cincinnati, where he was living when the discovery of gold in California was announced in 1849. In the following year (1850) he joined the rush for the gold fields, going by way of the Isthmus of Panama, and remained in California for three years, at the end of which time he returned to Cincinnati, where he became engaged in the grocery business. Not long afterward, however, he became attracted to the agricultural possibilities up in this section of Ohio and bought a farm in VanBuren township, Shelby county. He was married here in 1856 and continued to make his home on the farm for ten years thereafter, or until 1866, when he came up into Auglaize county and located at New Bremen, where he became engaged in the wholesale and retail cigar business, and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on December 8, 1885. William Grothaus was possessed of a peculiarly genial personality, and during the twenty years of his residence at New Bremen created a distinct impression upon that community. For nine years he served as mayor of the town, and he also served for some years as justice of the peace in and for German township. To him and his wife were born eight children, all of whom are living save one, Elizabeth; the others besides the subject of this sketch being Emma, Adeline, William, Edmund, Augusta and Lillian. J. Henry Grothaus, the second of these children in order of birth, was reared at New Bremen, and there received his schooling. At the age of fifteen years he became employed in the works of the Lanfersieck Plow Company, at New Bre-



J. HENRY GROTHAUS

men, and when twenty-two years of age became associated in a partnership with J. F. Lanfersieck for the manufacture of plows and the assembling of steel bridges, this concern presently being incorporated as the Lanfersieck-Grothaus Company, which was maintained until 1911, when the plant was sold to the Auglaize Motor Car Company. In the following year Mr. Grothaus became one of the organizers of the New Bremen Bridge Company and was elected secretary-treasurer of the same, a position which he still occupies. In 1902 Mr. Grothaus was elected a member of the directorate of the First National Bank of New Bremen, was later elected vice-president, and in November, 1921, was elected president of that sound financial institution. He also has other interests of a commercial and industrial character in and about New Bremen, and has for many years been regarded as one of the real "live wires" of that prosperous community. Mr. Grothaus is a Democrat and has long been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in this county. He served one term as county treasurer (1902-06), and has served his home town in several public capacities, for six years as a member of the local school board, for six years as town clerk, and for a like period as a member of the town council. He is a Scottish Rite (32°) Mason and is a past noble grand of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. On November 14, 1888, J. H. Grothaus was united in marriage to Emelie Vogelsang, daughter of Fred and Minnie (Kuenning) Vogelsang, both members of old families in this county, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Alvin and Walter, the latter of whom, a graduate of Ohio State University, is now a student in the dental college of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. Alvin Grothaus is the assistant bookkeeper in the First National Bank of New Bremen. The Grothauses are members of the St. Paul's German Lutheran church at New Bremen, and take a proper interest in congregational affairs, as well as in the general social activities of the community. During the time of the World war, Walter Grothaus served for seven months in the United States army, being stationed at the camp at Louisville, and also served in the officers' training camp.

DAVID ARMSTRONG, veteran dry goods merchant of St. Mary's, now living retired in that city, the oldest native born son of St. Marys now living, has been a resident of that place all his life, a period of almost ninety years, and has thus seen the growth of the city from the time when it was but a cluster of a few rude log cabins to its present state of development. Mr. Armstrong was born in a log cabin along the riverside at what is now the corner of Front and High streets in St. Marys on September 28, 1833, and is a son of David and Eleanora (Scott) Armstrong, who were among the early residents of the village that sprang up at the old fort site at what

then was the head of navigation on the St. Marys river. Though the town then was the county seat of Mercer county, it was but a ragged and straggling frontier village, with but few and widely separated settlements west of it until Ft. Wayne was reached, the trading post at the head of navigation on the Maumee. Chicago at that time also was but a straggling frontier post, containing hardly more than a dozen families besides the officers and soldiers in old Ft. Dearborn. In fact, the treaty with the Pottawatomies, by which these aboriginals gave their consent to clear out of the Chicago country, was not made until two days before Mr. Armstrong's birth (September 26, 1833). Just the year before (1832) the Indians had left this part of Ohio, the Wapakoneta and Hog River reservations having been ceded to the Government late in the year prior to that, and consequently things were in pretty much their original wilderness state hereabout at the time Mr. Armstrong came on the scene. Though St. Marys had been "on the map" for ten years and was the local seat of government, there was little development in the place until the coming of the canal ten years later, and thus Mr. Armstrong's personal recollection and observation cover what may practically be regarded as the whole of the real development period of the city. His father, the senior David Armstrong, a Virginian by birth and a son of Judge John Armstrong who had come up here from Greenville when lands were opened for settlement here and had become one of the most forceful factors in the development of this region, was a vigorous young man when he came here with his father and with the latter became engaged in boating on the river between St. Marys and Ft. Wayne, erecting a "ship yard" on the river bank at the point now occupied by the Fountain hotel on Spring street, and running a string of flat boats down to the trading post at Ft. Wayne. Judge Armstrong and his son also entered lands here and early began to develop their farming interests, and in other ways took an active part in helping to bring about orderly processes in the formative period of the community. David Armstrong and his cousin, William Armstrong for some time carried on quite a trading business, with dealings from Dayton to Ft. Wayne and Defiance. William Armstrong married his cousin, Sarah, a daughter of Judge Armstrong, and in 1827 was elected auditor of Mercer county. Judge Armstrong had two other daughters, Nancy, who married John Blew, and Polly, who married Richard P. Barrington. He also had, besides David, another son. This latter joined the rush to the gold fields following the discovery of gold in 1849 and died in California in 1852. David Armstrong, the pioneer trader, was married after he took up his residence at St. Marys, his wife (Eleanora Scott) having come here with her parents in 1826, the Scotts, as previously set out, having been among the early settlers of the St. Marys community. He died in the very

prime of his manhood in December, 1833, being then but thirty-three years of age, leaving his widow with two young sons, the subject of this sketch—then but a babe of three months—having had a brother, Harvey, who died in 1849. The mother of these sons died in 1852. The junior David Armstrong (subject of this sketch) was reared at St. Marys and his schooling was received in the log school house at what is now the corner of Perry and South streets and which on Sundays also was used as a meeting house by the Presbyterians. His first work was that as a farm boy, plowing with oxen on a farm north of the village, but he did not keep this up very long, presently becoming employed as a clerk in the dry goods store of Joseph Kelsey, that store then being situated along the canal on Spring street at the point now occupied by the American State Bank. In 1860, Mr. Armstrong, who meanwhile had been giving his close attention to acquiring a full knowledge of the details of the dry goods business, opened a store of his own. This store occupied a site on East Spring street, about a block east of the site of the present Armstrong store on the north side of that street, and he continued to carry on his business there until in 1875, when he erected his present building and moved into the new store, where he continued active in business until his retirement in 1917, since which time his daughter, Lillian Armstrong, has been in active charge of the business, though Mr. Armstrong retains much of his former interest in the place. Not only as one of the leading merchants of St. Marys but as a man of active and influential interest in local civic affairs, Mr. Armstrong has done well his part in the community. He served for some years as city treasurer and has rendered public service in other capacities from time to time as called on to do so. David Armstrong has been twice married. In 1857 he was united in marriage to Fredonia Rankin, of St. Marys, who died in 1864, leaving one child, a son, Russell Harvey Armstrong, born in 1858, who has for years been engaged in business at St. Marys as a shoe merchant. On November 26, 1866, Mr. Armstrong married Henrietta Carr, who was born at Plymouth, Ind., December 28, 1847, and who was but a child when she came to Ohio with her parents, James H. and Rachel (Carmony) Carr, the family locating at Piqua, where she received her schooling and remained until she was about seventeen years of age, when the family moved to St. Marys. To David and Henrietta (Carr) Armstrong were born two daughters, Nellie, born on September 29, 1867, who married James F. Stout and died at the age of twenty-six years, and Lillian C., born on July 8, 1875, and who since her father's retirement from business has been in active charge of the Armstrong dry goods store at St. Marys. Mrs. Henrietta Armstrong died on June 11, 1921, she then being in her seventy-fourth year. She was from the days of her girlhood an active and earnest member of the

Presbyterian church, as is her daughter. Miss Lillian C. Armstrong received her schooling in the excellent schools of St. Marys and early became acquainted with the details of her father's dry goods establishment. About eighteen years ago she became associated with him as an active participant in the business and thus upon his retirement in 1917 was well qualified to take over the business and keep it going, adding to it from time to time as demands arose such new equipment and lines of stock as the times required to keep it "up to date," thus following out the policy that has governed in this establishment ever since it was founded, sixty-two years ago. Mr. Armstrong and his daughter have a pleasant home at 211 North Walnut street, where they have resided for many years.

MAJOR EMIL F. MARX, a veteran of the World War with a conspicuous overseas record, for years an active figure in the Ohio National Guard and present major of the 148th regiment (infantry) of the 37th Division of the United States National Guard of Ohio, residing at St. Marys, one of the best known young men in that city, was born at Botkins, over the line in the neighboring county of Shelby, December 28, 1891, and is a son of Michael A. and Philomena (Brinegar) Marx, the latter of whom, also born at Botkins, a member of one of the old families of that community, died at St. Marys in 1908 and is buried in the Catholic (Gethsemane) cemetery there. Michael A. Marx, who was born at Wapakoneta, has for years been a resident of St. Marys, where he is engaged in the real estate business. To him and his wife were born two sons, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Sylvan J. Marx. Reared at St. Marys, to which town his parents had moved when he was but a child, Emil F. Marx completed the course in the high school of the Holy Rosary parochial school there and then entered St. Joseph's College at Rensselaer, Ind., from which institution he was graduated in 1911. Upon his return to St. Marys, he became engaged in the moving picture business and made quite a success in that line. In the meantime he had become connected with old Company K of the 2d regiment (infantry) of the Ohio National Guard at St. Marys and when this company was called into Federal service to take part in the expedition into Mexico following the Villa flurry along the border in June, 1916, he was serving as second lieutenant of the company. Upon thus being called into United States military service he sold his theater and with his company went to the border, where he was in service until in the following March when the company was returned North and at Ft. Sheridan (Chicago) was mustered out of the Federal service, though still retained as a unit in the Ohio National Guard. In the following month, April 6, 1917, this country declared war on Germany and the National Guard again was called into Federal service, Company K being mobilized at Camp Sheridan in

MAJOR EMIL MARX

the following June, Lieutenant Marx thus for the second time within a year being called to the aid of his country's arms. His service in the World War was contemporaneous with that of the command to which he became attached and may well be summarized from the story relating to that command set out in the historical volume of this work, where it is stated that Company K was assigned at Camp Sheridan as Company B of the 146th regiment of the 37th Division, National army, and on May 15, 1918, was transferred to Camp Lee (Va.), whence a month later it sailed with this division for France, arriving at Brest on June 22, 1918. A week later this division was assigned to service in the Beaumont sector and on July 25 took over the front lines in the Bacarat sector, remaining there until September 12, when it went into action in the Argonne drive and on September 26 took part in the Avacourt engagement. It then captured Montfaucon, where it remained until October 1, when it was sent to the St. Mihiel sector, holding there the front from October 4 to October 14, when it was relieved and sent into Belgium, where it took part in the Ypres campaign and in the Lys first and second offensives, and was there when the armistice was signed on November 11. This company, with the division to which it was attached, sailed for the United States on March 13, 1919, and on March 31 was sent to Camp Dix and thence presently to Camp Sherman (Chillicothe, Ohio), where it was discharged on April 13, having paraded enroute at Canton, Akron and Columbus. In the meantime the movement to reorganize the National Guard under Federal direction was under way and upon receiving his discharge Lieutenant Marx offered his services in this behalf. He had been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant on April 29, 1918, and on June 17, 1919, was given a captain's commission. Upon his return to St. Marys, Captain Marx at once set about the reorganization of old Company K under the provisions of the new Federal organization law and on June 22, 1919, the new company was mustered in as Company K of the 148th Regiment (infantry) of the 37th Division of the United States National Guard of Ohio, with Captain Marx commanding. On March 1, 1921, Captain Marx was promoted to the rank of major and has since been serving in that capacity. His Company K was the first unit of the new National Guard to be organized in this state and he has aided in the organization of all other companies in the state under the new laws. Company K now (1922) has 70 men and is officered as follows: Captain, Thomas J. Needles; first lieutenant, Joseph E. Walsh. A medical detachment of the 148th Regiment also has been organized at St. Marys, this detachment having thirty-four men and three officers, these latter being Captains Frank E. Ayers and George E. Raudebaugh and First Lieut. Ivan W. Wright. With the reorganization of old Company K, the people of St. Marys united in a

movement to procure for the city an adequate armory and in due time there was erected there a handsome armory building overlooking beautiful Memorial park, which serves not only as an armory, but as a much needed and very useful community house. This armory was erected at a cost of $59,000, of which $6,000 was raised by the people of the town and $4,000 was provided by the Community Welfare Association, which also donated the ground, the remainder of the expense being assumed by the state. The building, which was designed in accordance with approved official plans, is fire proof and is provided with a room for the use of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and rooms for the company club and canteen. The drill floor is 50 by 100 feet in dimensions and carries equipment for basket ball and other indoor athletics. On June 28, 1921, Major Emil F. Marx was united in marriage to Mary Eckert, of St. Marys, daughter of Edward Eckert, and who as well as himself is a member of Holy Rosary Catholic church. The Major also is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at St. Marys and is likewise affiliated with the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at that place. Major and Mrs. Marx have a pleasant home at St. Marys and take an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the community.

LAWRENCE BIMEL, who was the founder of the old carriage factory at St. Marys and the old spoke and wheel works there and who for years was one of the most influential factors in the development of the industrial interests of that town and of the county at large, left a good memory at his passing and it is but fitting that there should be carried here in the definite history of the county, with which he was so long identified, some modest tribute to that memory. Mr. Bimel was born in Germany in 1827 and was three years of age when he came to this country with his parents, Michael and Maria Bimel, in 1830, the family coming on west and locating in Ohio, some years later taking up their permanent residence in Auglaize county, where Michael Bimel entered from the government a tract of land, not long after the Indians had taken their exodus from this region, and thus became one of the pioneers of this county, with his residence on a farm near Wapakoneta. Lawrence Bimel grew to manhood here and after completing his schooling served an apprenticeship as a blacksmith and wagon maker. Upon acquiring his trade he opened a carriage and wagon-making shop at Sidney and some years later closed out that business and moved to St. Marys, where he established himself in business and where he spent the remainder of his life. It was in 1855 that Lawrence Bimel founded his industries at St. Marys and for many years thereafter he was one of the most active factors in the development of the industrial interests of that town. That was about ten years after canal navi-

gation had been opened through St. Marys and the big woodworking industries for which the town so long has been famous were just getting a good start. The enterprise displayed by him and the energy with which he carried on his spoke and wheel works and his carriage factory, in due time these activities being supplemented by those of his sons, Fred and William Bimel, helped to give an impetus to all forms of industry thereabout and undoubtedly did much to spread abroad the fame of St. Marys as a manufacturing center in what properly may be called the days of pioneering in industry here. Salesrooms of the Bimel products were opened at different places to supply the local trade, while the canal traffic gave an outlet for these products both to the river and to the lake, so that a flourishing business was carried on by the Bimel plants. In 1879 Lawrence Bimel established a branch plant at Portland, Ind., where the big timber industries then were just at their height, and his son Fred, who just about then was coming into his majority, was put in charge of the same, this plant being equipped for the manufacture of spokes, hubs, felloe strips and similar accessories of the carriage manufacturing line, and Fred Bimel quickly became recognized as one of the leaders in the industrial and commercial life of that town, even as his father was of St. Marys. In 1910 the Portland plant was enlarged and modernized and to its output was added the manufacture of automobile wheels ,this latter product now having a wide reputation in the automobile industry, and the plant is still operated by the Bimel interests, Carl Bimel, son of the late Fred Bimel and grandson of Lawrence Bimel, being the head of the concern, in succession to his father, who died in 1912. In the old Sutton "Atlas of Auglaize County" (1880), there is a page devoted to the Lawrence Bimel interests at St. Marys, this page depicting in reproductions of admirable crayon drawings the portraits of Lawrence Bimel and his wife (Elizabeth) and of the Bimel home and the Bimel factories, the spoke and wheel works and the carriage factory, this latter picture carrying underneath it a legend setting out that the carriage works had "the best facilities for good work of any factory in northwestern Ohio." This factory was located on South street between Front and Main, and it was there that Lawrence Bimel carried on his business until his death, a useful and influential citizen. To Lawrence and Elizabeth Bimel were born five children, the two sons, Fred and William (both now deceased), and the three daughters, Amelia, Anna, who married Henry Schroeder, and Edith, who married Charles Pauck, of St. Marys. Mrs. Amelia Fisk, the eldest of these daughters, is living at St. Marys, where she is very pleasantly situated at 217 North Main street. She has two children, a son and a daughter, Wilbur and Ethel, the latter of whom is now living at Pittsburgh, Pa., where

she is connected with the operations of a lyceum bureau. Wilbur Fisk, who is living at St. Marys, married Huldah Cranes and has one child, a son, Charles.

FERDINAND F. FLEDDERJOHANN, M. D., one of Auglaize county's best known physicians and a resident of New Bremen since the day nearly twenty years ago, when fresh from medical college, he first became engaged in the practice of his profession, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here, and has resided here all his life. Doctor Fledderjohann was born at Lock 6 on the Miami & Erie canal, in section 26 of St. Marys township, December 26, 1876, and is a son of Herman Henry and Engel (Wellman) Fledderjohann, both of whom were born in Germany and both now deceased. The late Herman Henry Fledderjohann, who for many years was one of the best known citizens of Auglaize county, was twenty years of age when he came with his parents to this country in the '30s of the past century, the family coming on out into Ohio and settling in what is now the New Knoxville neighborhood in Washington township, this county, the father becoming one of the pioneers of that community. It was about that time that the canal project was being pushed on up through this part of the state and the young Henry Fledderjohann found ready employment on that public work. His aptitude for that sort of constructive work soon was recognized and he was made a foreman, in which capacity he superintended the construction and reconstruction of a number of the canal locks in this county. Some time after his marriage he set up a saw mill at Lock 6 and there established his home, continuing to operate the saw mill for forty years or until the big timber was practically exhausted thereabout and the days of lumbering here were over. At his well improved place there he spent his last days, his death occurring on July 25, 1904. In addition to his milling interests he had a hand in other enterprises of one sort and another and also was a large landowner, long having been regarded as one of the county's most substantial citizens. He was twice married and raised a large family. Of these, seven children by his second marriage are now living, those besides the Doctor being Minnie, Dr. H. E., Herman, B. A., Louise and George. B. A. Fledderjohann is a former representative from this district in the Ohio General Assembly. Dr. H. E. Fledderjohann is a practicing physician at New Knoxville, and George Fledderjohann is a farmer. Dr. Ferdinand F. Fledderjohann was reared on the home place at Lock 6 and received his common schooling there. After taking a course in the New Bremen high school he began reading medicine and presently entered the Medical College of Ohio, where he studied for one year, at the end of which time he entered Jefferson Medical College at Philadelphia and was graduated from that institution in

DR. F. F. FLEDDERJOHANN

1903. Thus equipped for the practice of the profession to which he had devoted his life, Doctor Fledderjohann returned to his home county and opened an office at New Bremen, where he ever since has been engaged in practice and where he is very pleasantly situated. The Doctor is a member of the Ohio State Medical Society and has ever taken an interested part in the deliberations of that body. He is a member of the Zions Reformed church and has from the days of the beginning of his residence in New Bremen taken an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of that community, at present serving the public as a member of the local school board. In his political views he holds himself as an "independent," reserving the right not to be bound by mere party ties. His father was long looked upon as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in that part of the county and was a staunch and outspoken defender of the principles of that party. On Sept. 7, 1905, Dr. F. F. Fledderjohann was united in marriage to Emma Bierbaum, a daughter of William and Mary (Henkener) Bierbaum, and to this union were born three children, Orlando, Norman and Elodie, the latter of whom died on March 21, 1910. The mother of these children died on October 23, 1918.

JOHN D. H. QUELLHORST, a well-known and substantial farmer of St. Marys township, now living retired at New Bremen, where he has made his home for some years past, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Quellhorst was born on a farm in St. Marys township on September 17, 1855, and is a son of Charles H. and Anna (Meyer) Quellhorst, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. Charles H. Quellhorst was a native of Germany who had come to this country with his father when twenty-one years of age, the family locating in St. Marys township, this county. Charles H. Quellhorst was for some time after his arrival here employed on one of the state boats running on the canal and then he became engaged in farming, buying a small tract of land in St. Mary's township, about midway between St. Marys and New Bremen, and after his marriage established his home there. As his affairs prospered, for he was a good farmer, he added to his holdings there until he became the owner of a fine farm of 240 acres and was regarded as one of the substantial and influential citizens of that neighborhood. To him and his wife were born ten children, seven of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Sophia who married Edward Floerke, and Flora who married John Poppe, and four brothers, Florence H., August, Fred W. and Edward Quellhorst. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, John D. H. Quellhorst received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and remained on the farm, a valued aid to his father in the labors of

developing the place, until his marriage in 1879, when he bought a tract of eighty acres in that same neighborhood and began farming on his own account. He established his home on that place and continued to reside there until his retirement from the farm and removal in 1909 to New Bremen, where he since has resided and where he and his wife are very comfortably situated. Mr. Quellhorst was a good farmer and during the days of his active farming he gradually added to his land holdings until he became the owner of 437 acres. He still owns 300 acres, a farm of 140 acres in this county and a quarter-section tract in Harper county, Kansas. In his political views Mr. Quellhorst reserves the right to "independence." He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and he was for three years treasurer of the congregation and also served for some time as a member of the church council. As noted above, it was in 1879 that John D. H. Quellhorst was united in marriage to Catherine Poppe, who also was born in St. Marys township, daughter of Henry and Catherine (Schleselman) Poppe, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Ida, who died in infancy; Henry, who married Emma Wierwille and has four children, Alfreda, Clifford, Cordelia, and Alton; Amanda, who married Edwin Fork and has five children, Larma, Edith, Irene, Vernon and Marjorie; and Clarence, who is unmarried. Mrs. Quellhorst's parents were born in Germany and did not come to this country until after their marriage. They came on out into Ohio and settled in this county, locating on a farm in St. Marys township, where they established their home and spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom are still living, Mrs. Quellhorst having two sisters, Minnie, who married John Schneider, and Anna, who married Henry H. Eisenhauer, and three brothers, Joseph, William and Fred Poppe.

JACOB T. KOENIG, former judge of the probate court of Auglaize county, one of the leading members of the bar of this county, a practicing attorney with offices at Wapakoneta, where he has made his home since his elevation to the bench in 1911, a member of the school board and in other ways interested in movements having to do with the cultural development of the city, is a native son of Auglaize county and has resided here all his life. Judge Koenig was born on a farm in section 31 of Noble township, northwest of St. Marys, June 10, 1880, and is a son of Jacob and Barbara (Hoppel) Koenig, the latter of whom also was born in this state, in the Dayton neighborhood, February 23, 1844. The late Jacob Koenig, father of Judge Koenig, was a Wurtemberger by birth, born in the vicinity of the city of Stuttgart on June 6, 1843, and was but a lad when he came to this country with his parents in the late '40s of the past century, his father, George Koenig, becoming one of the pioneers of this county, settling with his family in what then was a practical

wilderness in Noble township, northwest of St. Marys, the Koenigs thus being one of the old established families of Auglaize county. Though the original spelling of the family name has been retained in this generation its pronunciation has long been Anglicized, Judge Koenig thus being known as Judge "King." Jacob Koenig grew to manhood on the pioneer farm which his father had entered from the government in the St. Marys neighborhood and after his marriage took up farming on his own account, a vocation he followed all his life. In time he came into possession of the old home place in Noble township and came to be recognized as one of the substantial and influential citizens of that part of the county, the owner at the time of his death of a good farm of about 117 acres. He had served his community in a public capacity as a township trustee and as a member of the local board of education and in other ways did well his part as a helpful citizen. To him and his wife were born four children, the subject of this sketch having one brother, John H. Koenig, and two sisters, Rosa and Laura. Jacob T. Koenig received his early schooling in the district schools of his home neighborhood and then attended the high school at St. Marys, from which he was graduated in 1899. Thus equipped by preparatory study he entered the law office of his elder brother, John H. Koenig, at St. Marys, and after three years of study there in the elements of law entered the law school of the University of Ohio. He completed his law studies in the law school of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, and later received a degree from the Hamilton College of Law at Chicago. Upon his graduation and admission to the bar he became associated with his brother in the practice of law at St. Marys, under the firm style of Koenig & Koenig, and was thus engaged for something more than seven years, or until his appointment on January 9, 1911, by Governor Harmon, to the position of judge of the probate court of Auglaize county to fill the unexpired term of Judge Christian Langhorst, deceased. In the following election, in November, 1912, Judge Koenig was elected to succeed himself and thus served as judge of the probate court for more than six years, or until the expiration of his term of office in February, 1917, when he opened an office for the practice of law at Wapakoneta and his since been thus engaged. Judge Koenig is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He is chairman of the nome service department of the local chapter of the American Red Cross. The Judge is a Scottish Rite Mason, a member of the consistory at Dayton, and is also affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and with the Kiwanis Club. His Masonic affiliations at Wapakoneta include both the cryptic and capitular branches of Freemasonry as well as that of the Order of the Eastern Star, of which latter order Mrs. Koenig also is a member. On July 4, 1906, Jacob T. Koenig was

united in marriage to Irma B. Pepper, daughter of Rudolph and Harriet E. Pepper, and to this union six children have been born, Jacob Rudolph, Robert P., Harriet E., Rosemary, Marshall B. and William H.

ADAM E. SCHAFFER, postmaster at Wapakoneta, manager of the Democrat Printing Company and manager of the *Daily News* and the *Weekly Democrat*, secretary of the Auglaize County Fair Association, former treasurer of the city of Wapakoneta, former auditor of Auglaize county, and who has been referred to as "perhaps the best known man in Auglaize county," is a native son of this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has lived here all his life. Mr. Schaeffer was born at Wapakoneta on August 10, 1866, and is a son of George and Mary (Lenhart) Schaffer, the latter of whom was born in the neighboring county of Shelby, May 8, 1839, her parents having been pioneers of that county. The late George Schaffer, who for years was one of the leading merchants of Wapakoneta, proprietor of a grocery store there, was a European by birth, born in Germany, June 10, 1836, and was but a child when he came to this country with his parents, the family locating in Auglaize county. George Schaffer established his home at Wapakoneta after his marriage and was for many years engaged there in the grocery business, his death occurring in that city in 1913. A. E. Schaffer was reared at Wapakoneta, receiving his schooling in the local schools, and early became engaged in the grocery business with his father, continuing thus engaged until after his marriage in 1890, at the age of twenty-three years, when he embarked in business for himself, erecting the Schaffer block on East Auglaize street and there conducting a grocery store for ten years, or until 1900, since which time other interests have occupied his attention, it having been about that time that he became engaged in the newspaper business which since has been perhaps the paramount interest in his life and in which he has been eminently successful. It was under his management that the old established *Democrat* began to develop along modern lines, the new life thus injected into the enterprise resulting in the extension of that paper's interests along all lines, and it also was under his direction that the paper began to be issued as a daily in the summer of 1905 under the name of the *News*, an institution which at once found a place for itself in the community and has long been recognized as one of the leading daily newspapers in northwestern Ohio. Mr. Schaffer also extended the printing plant connected with the newspaper and as a producer of general job printing the Democrat Printing Company has an established reputation covering a wide territory throughout this part of Ohio. Mr. Schaffer's management of the newspaper naturally has for years made him one of the leaders in the counsels of the Democratic party in this district

ADAM E. SCHAFFER

and he also has done his part in rendering public service. He had served for two terms as treasurer of Wapakoneta and in 1908 was elected auditor of Auglaize county. By re-election he served two terms in this important office (1909-13) and new business methods introduced by him in the administration of that office established a new standard in public service there, a standard that since has been maintained. On November 1, 1915, Mr. Schaffer received his commission as postmaster at Wapakoneta and has since been serving in that position of trust and responsibility. It was thus that upon his ready shoulders fell many of the tasks that devolved upon the local representative of the Government during the period of this country's participation in the World war, and it is needless to say that every responsibility thus imposed upon him was met with that same alert administrative capacity and keen precision of judgment that have characterized his dealings in his own private affairs, so that it properly may be said that he was a real tower of strength in the local field during that time of national stress. It seems that in so many ways A. E. Schaffer has been relied on by his friends in and about Wapakoneta "to get things done." In an interesting local review written some years ago it was observed by the reviewer that "in every community the business of boosting and serving gratis upon soliciting committees and the like, seem usually to fall upon one or two of its most active men, and in Wapakoneta these duties have devolved upon Mr. Schaffer for a decade of years. Hence, having always been among the first to contribute money to every project having in view the welfare of the town, he has perhaps been responsible for more of its improvements than any other citizen now living." High praise, indeed, but an estimate which the friends of Mr. Schaffer declare is correct to the letter and in this connection they ever are glad to point to the record he has made as secretary and manager for the past thirty-six years of the Auglaize County Fair Association, an organization which under the capable and experienced direction of Mr. Schaffer has developed a standard of excellence in the annual exposition of the Auglaize county fair that has gained for this exposition a reputation exceeded by no other county exposition in the state. Indeed, as is set out elsewhere in this work, and has been pointed out in previous reviews, "it is conceded by every one familiar with the facts that A. E. Schaffer is without question the best fair secretary in Ohio." More high praise, but apparently fully justified, for the annually recurring success of the Auglaize county fair tells its own story. It was on May 30, 1890, that A. E. Schaffer was united in marriage to Margaret Culliton, of Wapakoneta, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at the corner of Blackhoof and Mechanic streets, the site formerly occupied by the historic old first Auglaize county court house. Mr. and Mrs. Schaffer are members

of St. Joseph's Catholic church and Mr. Schaffer is affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus, with the Swabian society and with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Fifteen years ago Mr. Schaffer was elected secretary of The Ohio Fair Boys Association, with A. P. Sandles as president of the same—an association that was destined to have a marked influence upon the extension and development of the interests of the county fairs of this state. This association, which was promoted by the six leading spirits in county fair work in Ohio, now takes in local fair associations in eighty-two of the counties of the state and Mr. Schaffer's continued activities in that connection have been largely effective in helping to promote the general development of the fairs in this extensive circuit.

CAPT. LOUIS E. LAMBERT, who died at his home in St. Marys in the summer of 1922, was an honored veteran of the Civil war, former mayor of the city of St. Marys, formerly engaged in manufacturing in that city but who of late years had been giving his special attention to the real estate and insurance business he had built up there during his residence of nearly thirty-five years in that city, was one of the best known citizens of Auglaize county and it is but proper that there should here be paid some modest tribute to the good memory he left at his passing. Captain Lambert was a European by birth, but had been a resident of this country since the days of his childhood. He was born in the province of Lorraine, then a part of France, in 1870 taken over by Germany and in 1918 restored to France, June 12, 1842, and was a son of Jacob and Sophia (Roechling) Lambert, the latter of whom was born at Saarbrucken, in Rhenish Prussia, April 24, 1813. Jacob Lambert was born at Ingenheim, in the French province of Lorraine, April 4, 1798, and was early trained as a woodworker, a vocation he followed all his life. After his marriage he established his home in his native land and there continued to reside until 1847, when he emigrated with his family to this country and located at Cleveland, Ohio, where he became engaged in the manufacture of wooden tubs and was thus engaged until his death in 1858, he then being sixty years of age. To him and his wife were born seven children, but one of whom now survives, the late Captain Lambert's sister, Augusta (Mrs. August Kirkhoff). As will be noted by a comparison of dates above, Louis E. Lambert was five years of age when he came to this country with his parents in 1847, and he was reared at Cleveland, completing his schooling there in the old Langsdorf Academy, from which he was graduated, and was living at Cleveland when the Civil war broke out in the spring of 1861. He straightway enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and was mustered in as a corporal in the famous 37th regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, attached to the Army

of the Tennessee, and with that gallant command served until the end of the war, being gradually promoted in the ranks for meritorious service in the field from corporal to first sergeant, then second lieutenant, then first lieutenant, captain of Company G of the 37th regiment and regimental adjutant. During this period of service Captain Lambert participated in much strenuous service, including Sherman's march to the sea, and was wounded four times in battle, at one time having been reported dead on the field. Upon the completion of his military service Captain Lambert returned to Cleveland and for some time thereafter was engaged in clerical work, a bookkeeper, but presently became engaged in business for himself, opening a men's furnishing goods store at Cleveland. He married in 1876 and continued to make his home in Cleveland until in 1888, when upon the opening of the oil and gas "boom" hereabout he came to Auglaize county and located at St. Marys, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in August, 1922. It will be recalled that there were more than eighty Auglaize county men connected with the old 37th Ohio and Captain Lambert, who had frequently visited here and had married a St. Marys girl, thus had a good many friends here who lost no time in bidding him a welcome to his new home upon his arrival here in 1888 and there is no evidence that he ever regretted the choice which brought him here for permanent residence. Upon taking up his residence at St. Marys, Captain Lambert became connected with the operations of the chain works there and at the same time began to develop a local real estate and insurance business. In this latter line he soon found himself so successful that he presently began to devote his whole attention to it and so continued until his final illness, though of recent years he had sought retirement from the more active phases of the business. The Captain had other interests of a business character, including a place on the directorate of the First National Bank of St. Marys, and had been for years one of the active factors in the promotion of the general commercial and industrial interests of his home town. He was an ardent Republican and had served one term as mayor of the city of St. Marys, elected in 1898. He was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, a member of the Society of the Army of the Tennessee and of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and in the affairs of these several patriotic orders had ever taken a warm and active interest. He was a member of the German Reformed church, as was his wife, and he was affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias. It was on October 12, 1876, that Capt. Louis E. Lambert was united in marriage to Bertha Dieker, of St. Marys, a daughter of Fred Dieker, who in his generation was one of the best known men in western Ohio, proprietor of the old Dieker House at St. Marys and in other ways active in affairs hereabout, as

will be noted elsewhere in this work, and to that union three children were born, a daughter, Florence E., and two sons, Carl F. and Frederick X., the latter of whom is now deceased. Florence E. Lambert married Herman Brinkmeyer, of St. Marys, and has one child, a son, Robert. Carl F. Lambert married Theresa Dick (now deceased) and is now living in Kansas.

WILLIAM C. FISHER, secretary-treasurer of the Glass Block Company (Inc.) and general manager of that concern's extensive department store at St. Marys, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of St. Marys for the past twenty years. Mr. Fisher was born in the village of Lafayette, in the neighboring county of Allen, November 30, 1872, and was but a child when his parents, James M. and Rachel (Nash) Fisher, moved to the city of Lima, where he was reared and where he received his schooling. Upon leaving school he began working as a clerk in the Bitzer furniture store at Lima and was there employed for about seven years, or until he was twenty-seven years of age, when he was made assistant secretary of the Lima Waterworks Company, a position he occupied for two years, at the end of which time, in 1903, he became bookkeeper in the Glass Block store at St. Marys and has ever since been connected with that establishment. Two years after Mr. Fisher entered this store the present corporation controlling it was organized, a stock company organized as the Glass Block Company (Inc.), and Mr. Fisher was elected secretary and treasurer of the company. That was in 1905. Ten years later, in 1915, he was made general manager of the store, which meanwhile had been developed into one of the most extensive department stores in western Ohio, and he has since been in charge of the concern's growing interests, these including seven complete departments, each with its own head under Mr. Fisher's general direction, and including pretty much every variety of merchandise demanded in the community. The Glass Block Company is incorporated for $60,000. its present officiary being as follows: President, Marvin K. Clover; vice-president, William F. Brodbeck; secretary-treasurer, William C. Fisher, these officers, together with Albert Herzing, C. P. Tomhafe, S. L. Clay and W. A. Guertin constituting the directorate of the company. The modern and well arranged building in which the department store is located is leased from the St. Marys Woolen Manufacturing Company and provides floor space aggregating 37,500 square feet. Mr. Fisher is a Democrat and gives proper attention to the general civic affairs of the community, one of the real town "boosters" at St. Marys. He is a Freemason and has taken both the council and the chapter degrees of that order and is also an Odd Fellow and a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, while he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. In February,

1917, William C. Fisher was united in marriage to Clara Stalder, of St. Marys, and they have a very pleasant home in that city. Mrs. Fisher was born at St. Marys, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth (Weber) Stalder, and has lived in that city all her life.

GODFREY KUENZEL, president of the Kuenzel Mills Company of New Bremen, and long recognized as one of Auglaize county's leading business men, was born at New Bremen and has lived there all his life, now the eldest living representative of the Kuenzel family which has been prominently identified with the affairs of New Bremen almost from the days of its inception back in the days when the wilderness ruled hereabout. Mr. Kuenzel was born on August 16, 1855, and is a son of John A. and Wilhelmina (Mohrman) Kuenzel, the latter of whom was a daughter of one of the original residents of the Bremen colony which came up here from Cincinnati and established a village along the old Wayne trail in 1833. John Adam Kuenzel, father of Godfrey Kuenzel, was a son of J. C. and Maria (Wunderlich) Kuenzel, Bavarians, and was but a lad when he came to this country with his parents, the family arriving at the port of New Orleans and presently joining the Bremen colony which had shortly before established itself here in what then was Mercer county. J. C. Kuenzel was a tanner and upon his arrival here established a tannery in the New Bremen neighborhood at the point which came to be known as Amsterdam, but which long ago lost its place on the map. John A. Kuenzel became a valued assistant to his father in the operations of that pioneer tannery and later became engaged in the boot and shoe business at New Bremen, becoming one of the leading merchants of the place, and for twelve or thirteen years also served as postmaster of the town. Not long after the close of the Civil war he sold his shoe store and became connected with the woolen mill enterprise which had become established along the canal adjoining the flour mill at New Bremen and turned his attention to the enterprise, operating under the firm name of Bakhaus & Kuenzel, which some years later bought the adjacent flour mill, both concerns thereafter being operated together under the firm style of the Bakhaus-Kuenzel Company, which built up one of the leading industries in this part of the state and in which the Kuenzel interest still is the dominant one, the elder son of John Adam Kuenzel now being president of the company, which was re-organized in 1914 as the Kuenzel Mills Company, and the younger son, E. C. Kuenzel, secretary-treasurer of the company, all of which, together with important details of the operation of the mills and the products of the same, is set out elsewhere in the biographical sketch of the latter elsewhere in this work. Of the eight children born to John A. and Wilhelmina (Mohrman) Kuenzel these two sons alone survive. Godfrey Kuenzel was reared at New Bremen, where he received his schooling, and after

leaving school became identified with the operation of the woolen mills, starting in the weaving room and gradually becoming thoroughly familiar with all departments of the process of manufacturing woolen cloth and yarn. Upon the firm's acquisition of the flour mill he turned his attention to that enterprise, was made manager of the same and has been in active charge of the flour mill ever since, an industry which has been developed until it now has a capacity of right around one hundred barrels a day. When the Kuenzel Mills Company was incorporated under the reorganization of the same in 1914, Godfrey Kuenzel was made vice president of the company and presently was elected president, a position he since has occupied. Mr. Kuenzel is a Republican and has rendered public service as a member of the board of public works of the town of New Bremen. He and his family are members of the German Reformed church. For a number of years he was one of the elders of the congregation and he also has served as secretary. On April 25, 1882, Godfrey Kuenzel was united in marriage to Julia Haveman, daughter of Dr. William Haveman, of New Bremen, and to this union seven children have been born, Oscar, Felix, Beata, Paul, Ruth, Wilhelmina and Theo, all of whom are living. Oscar Kuenzel, a mechanical engineer, is now engaged in business at Newcomerstown, this state. Felix Kuenzel, who married Helen Bienz, "grew up" to the business which his grandfather had helped to establish and is now superintendent of the woolen mills. Beata Kuenzel married the Rev. William F. Kissell, of Lima, and has two children, Julia and John. Paul Kuenzel married May Bartlett and is now living at Portland, Ore. Ruth Kuenzel early turned her attention to the service of the church and upon completing her schooling entered the missionary field of the German Reformed church and is now stationed in Japan in that behalf. Wilhelmina Kuenzel was graduated from Oberlin College with the class of 1922 and Theo Kuenzel is a student in that college, a member of the class of 1924.

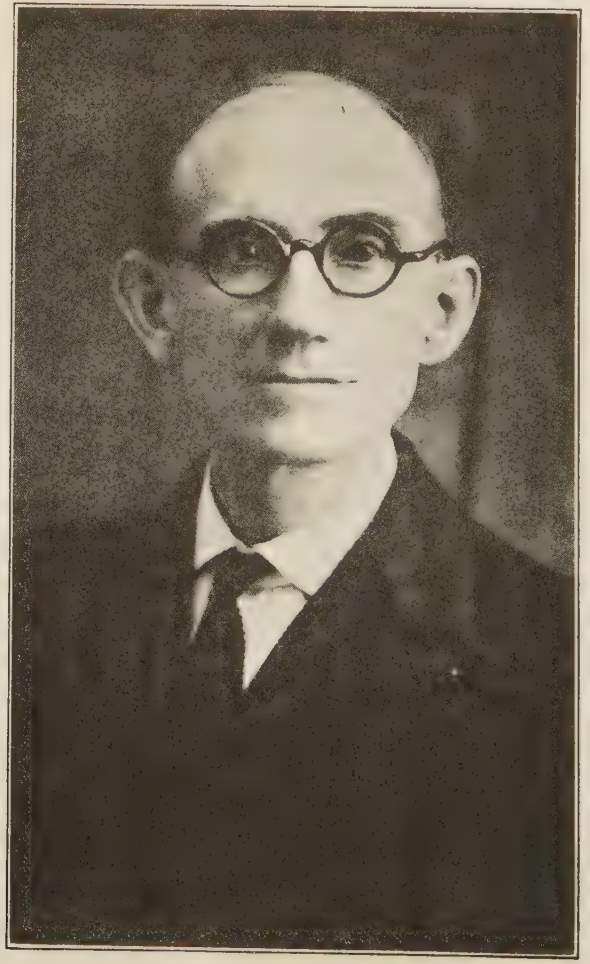
CLIFFORD J. AND GEORGE F. GAST, of the Gast Implement Company of New Bremen, two of the best known young men in that part of the county and successors to their father, the late Gregory Gast, who laid the foundations there for the present company, have been residents of that place since the days of their childhood. They are sons of Gregory and Bertha (Klopf) Gast, the latter of whom, now living at Lima, was born at Piqua, this state. The late Gregory Gast was a European by birth, an Alsatian, who came to this country alone when about sixteen years of age and located at Minster, in this county, where he became a proficient blacksmith. Having mastered this trade he went to Chickasaw, over in the neighboring county of Mercer, and opened there a shop of his own. He married while living there and after remaining at that place six or seven years

came back to Auglaize county and opened a blacksmith shop at New Bremen, where he spent the remainder of his life. During the twenty-three years of his business career at New Bremen Gregory Gast built up a dependable establishment, which has been amply enlarged by his sons since they have been in charge. About 1903 Gregory Gast added to his line the sale of agricultural implements, and it is this branch of the business which recently has been so greatly expanded. He died on June 26, 1913, and the business has been carried on by his sons, who "grew up" to the business and have expanded it to meet modern demands and conditions. To Gregory Gast and wife were born six children, George F., Lulu, Charles, Romand, Clifford J. and Irene, all of whom are living, Clifford J. Gast and George F. Gast carrying on the old established business founded by their father under the name of the Gast Implement Company, general repair work and dealers in agricultural implements and automobiles. Clifford James Gast, general manager of the concern, was born October 24, 1893, and was reared at New Bremen. He was graduated from the high school there and early became familiar with the details of his father's business. His father's death occurring not long after his graduation from the high school, he became associated with his brother George and stepped into the business, taking charge of the implement line, his brother taking charge of the smithy end of the concern and the repair branch. The brothers continued to carry on the business under the old name of Gregory Gast until on January 1, 1916, when they formed a partnership and have since been doing business under the firm style of the Gast Implement Company, and since then have made many improvements to the plant and extended its affairs in several directions, though continuing to occupy the building so long occupied by their father. Clifford J. Gast is a member of the local council of the Loyal Order of Moose at Wapakoneta and George F. Gast is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at that place. The brothers are Democrats and George F. Gast is chief of the New Bremen fire department. In the old days when the rivalries between the two sides of the town (east of the canal and west of the canal) were such as not only to find a reflection in the commercial and social life of the town but in its civic life, two engine houses were maintained, one east and one west of the canal, but with the subsidence of that old feeling this unnecessary duplication was abandoned and the fire fighting energies of the corporation were centered in the new and well equipped engine house on the East Side, though the quaint old engine house No. 1 on the West Side is still standing and is preserved as an interesting relic of the days that have gone. George F. Gast, the elder of the partners in the affairs of the Gast Implement Company, married Louetta Weinberg and has one child, a son, Gregory, named in honor of the lad's

grandfather. Clifford J. Gast married Irene Dinkel and has two children, Beverly and Virginia. Charles Gast, another of the sons of Gregory Gast, is a structural engineer, employed on the staff of the John Gill Company of Cleveland, and Romand Gast is factory superintendent of the plant of the Lincoln Electric Company.

MUELLER BROTHERS (John F. and August), proprietors of one of the leading mercantile establishments in New Bremen and dealers in men's clothing and furnishings, are members of one of the pioneer families of the New Bremen neighborhood and have lived there all their lives. Both were born on the old Mueller farm just beyond the eastern limits of the city, where they were reared, and their schooling was received in the New Bremen schools. They are sons of Henry F. and Mary (Sunderman) Mueller, both members of old families in that vicinity. Henry F. Mueller, who is now living retired on his well kept farm place at the edge of town, was born there and is a son of the pioneer, Gerhardt Frederick Mueller, a Hanoverian, who had settled at New Bremen upon coming to this country back in the '30s of the past century and, who, by working on the construction of the Miami & Erie canal, had acquired a sufficient fund to start him as a landowner in the New Bremen neighborhood and, who, in time, became one of the most substantial farmers thereabout, the owner of 400 acres of land and a well improved farm plant, which he had developed from the little log cabins in which he and his family had their "day of small things" upon settling here. He lived to see New Bremen grow until it became a widely known industrial center and his family, in the fourth generation, is still prominently connected there. Henry F. Mueller grew up on that pioneer farm and continued farming after his marriage, in time coming to be the owner of 100 acres of the old home place, which he improved in admirable fashion and where he is now living retired. To him and his wife were born seven children, all of whom are living, save Alvina, the others besides the subjects of this sketch being Rosina, Henry, Emma and Edwin. John F. Mueller, the senior member of the clothing firm of Mueller Bros., remained on the home farm until he was grown and then took up the carpenter trade, which he followed six years, at the end of which time he took a course in the Becks Commercial College at Dayton, preparatory to entering upon a business career. Thus equipped for business he found ready employment as a bookkeeper in the John Garmhausen store at Lock 2, formerly known as New Paris, in the neighborhood of his home and was there thus engaged for four years, or until 1899, when he and his brother, August Mueller, formed their present association and became engaged in the men's clothing business at New Bremen, under the firm name of Mueller Bros., which mutually agreeable arrangement has since continued. Upon entering the commercial field at

AUGUST W. MUELLER



JOHN F. MUELLER

New Bremen the Mueller brothers occupied the room on the corner now occupied by the offices of the New Bremen *Sun*. Two years later they moved their store to the Boesel block and were there for four years or until their expanding business demanded larger quarters and in 1905 they bought the building in which they are now carrying on their business, a building 50 by 75 feet in ground dimension, the store occupying all of the ground floor and basement and half of the second floor. This is the only exclusive men's clothing and furnishing store in New Bremen and the proprietors carry on their business in strictly up-to-date fashion. August Mueller, the younger brother, remained on the farm until he was twenty-three years of age, when he began working in the sash factory at New Bremen, operated by the Henifeld Manufacturing Company, and remained with that concern for more than four years, at the end of which time he became engaged in business with his brother. Both brothers are members of the St. Peter's Evangelical church and both are married and have pleasant homes. John F. Mueller married Florentina Kettler and has two children, Adiel and Theophil. August Mueller married Amanda Dinkel and has three children, Marie, Carl and Harold.

JAMES P. ANDERSON, a veteran of the World war, proprietor of the Central drug store at Wapakoneta and one of the most alert and energetic young business men of that city, was born at Wapakoneta on November 9, 1895, and is the son of Robert B. and Jennie (Wilson) Anderson, the latter of whom also was born at Wapakoneta and the former at Piqua, Ohio. Reared at Wapakoneta, James P. Anderson was graduated from the high school in 1913 and then after some experience as a drug clerk entered the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, from which he was graduated with the class of 1917. That was the spring in which this country took a part in the World war and two weeks before his graduation Mr. Anderson enlisted his services in behalf of American arms. After a period of preliminary training in the barracks at Philadelphia he was assigned to the 19th Railway Engineers and with that outfit sailed for France on August 9, 1917. For about one year he was with this command and then was transferred to a replacement division of infantry and thirty days later was assigned to the quartermaster's corps, with which he was serving when the armistice was signed, and during the last three months of his service overseas was on duty at Marseilles, where he was stationed when the order came to return to the States. He arrived on July 30, 1919, and was sent to Camp Sherman (Chillicothe, Ohio), where he received his discharge in the following August, after a service of two years in the army. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Anderson returned home and shortly afterward went to Detroit, where he entered the great chemical laboratory of Parke,

Davis & Co., manufacturing chemists, for a bit of intensive practical application of his pharmaceutical studies, and after six months of such experience there accepted a position in a Market street drug store at Lima, where he remained a year, at the end of which time he returned to Wapakoneta and was made manager of the Central drug store, John Purvis, proprietor. About a year later, in September, 1921, he bought the drug store from Mr. Purvis and has since been carrying on the business for himself. Since taking over the old established Central drug store Mr. Anderson has made some effective improvements in the place and has enlarged his line until now the Central is recognized as one of the most complete and up-to-date drug stores in western Ohio. Upon taking charge of the store Mr. Anderson adopted as his slogan, "Quality, Service, Price," and in maintaining all the standards implied in such a slogan has the enthusiastic assistance of a competent and accommodating staff of clerks. Mr. Anderson is one of the active members of the Kiwanis Club of Wapakoneta, is a member of the local post of the American Legion and also is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. In his political views he claims the right to be regarded as "independent" of mere party ties. On August 12, 1919, immediately following his return from army service, James P. Anderson was united in marriage to Helen House, of Wapakoneta, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Alice Jeanne, born in January, 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have a pleasant home at Wapakoneta and take an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the community. Mrs. Anderson was born at Sidney, Ohio, September 20, 1895, daughter of James E. and Carrie House, and was but twelve years of age when she moved with her parents to Wapakoneta, where she completed her schooling in the high school.

FRANK J. ZOFKIE, senior member of the firm of Zofkie, Foos & Company of Wapakoneta, president and manager of that concern, and for years one of the best known merchants of that city, is a European by birth but has been a resident of this country since the days of his infancy and is thus as much an American as though "to the manner born." Mr. Zofkie was born in Austria on November 15, 1871, and is a son of John and Mary Zofkie, who in 1872 came to America with their little family and located at Cleveland, Ohio, where they spent the remainder of their lives. John Zofkie was a stonemason and followed that vocation all his life. He and his wife were the parents of six children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Anna (deceased), John Zofkie, of Chillicothe, Ohio; Charles Zofkie, of Cincinnati, and Mary and Rose, of Cleveland. Reared at Cleveland, he having been but a babe in arms when his parents made their home there, Frank J. Zofkie attended a parochial school there—his parents

being Catholics and their children reared in that faith—and at the age of thirteen years began an apprenticeship to a tailor, under the direction of John Ledinsky, and upon completing his apprenticeship remained in Cleveland until he was twenty years of age when he went to Blairsville, Pa., and began working in a tailor shop there as a coatmaker, and was working there when the Columbian Exposition at Chicago attracted the attention of the world in 1893. He attended this great world's fair and then returned to his home at Cleveland and not long afterward became employed in a tailor shop at Elyria, where he added to his art that of cutting. Thus qualified as a cutter he went to Salem, in Columbiana county, and there he remained until on February 13, 1895, when he came to Wapakoneta to accept a position as cutter in the tailoring department of the Timmermeister & Rogers store and he ever since has been a resident of Wapakoneta. Two years after his arrival in Wapakoneta he married and established his home there. Mr. Zofkie remained with Timmermeister & Rogers until December 31, 1903. A month later, February 1, 1904, he started in business for himself, opening a tailoring shop in the room in the Moser building on Auglaize street now occupied as a plumbing shop, this room prior to that time having been occupied as a cirgar factory. Gregor L. Foos, who previously had been carrying on business with a line of men's furnishings, took a part of the room and the combination of the two lines carried on in the same room proved so agreeable to both men that presently Mr. Zofkie and Mr. Foos formed a partnership and on January 13, 1905, bought the clothing store which then was being carried on by Schubert & Levy in the room now occupied by the Zofkie-Foos Company on Auglaize street and moved their stock into this latter room and have ever since been located there, their trade name thus being one of the most familiar ones in the county. Not long after this change, in 1905, Henry F. Woehler, who had been a salesman in the Timmermeister & Rogers store, entered the firm and has since been associated with the founders of the business. In 1919 Mr. Zofkie's son, Cletus C. Zofkie, was admitted to partnership in the firm. The Zofkie-Foos store room covers an area of 25 by 85 feet of floor space and is well equipped and well stocked, the firm handling only dependable and popular brands of clothing and men's furnishings. Besides the sales force, two tailors are engaged in the store and the business is a growing one. Mr. Zofkie is an active member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at Wapakoneta and is also affiliated with the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Loyal Order of Moose at that place, while he and his wife are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church. Mr. Zofkie was a member of the building committee of this church when the present handsome edifice was erected in 1910, and has ever been an influential factor

in the promotion of the affairs of the parish. It was on August 4, 1897, that Frank J. Zofkie was united in marriage to Mary A. Distelrath, who was born in Wapakoneta on September 16, 1871, a daughter of John G. and Sabina (Klug) Distelrath, the latter of whom also was born at Wapakoneta, a member of one of the first families there. John G. Distelrath, who was sheriff of Auglaize county for four years (1884-88), was a native of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Zofkie have one child, a son, Cletus C. Zofkie, who was born on June 6, 1900, and who —as set out above—is now a member of the firm which his father founded at Wapakoneta many years ago. Following his graduation from the parochial school at Wapakoneta, Cletus C. Zofkie entered Dayton University, formerly known as St. Marys College, and was graduated from that institution, later taking a post-graduate course at Notre Dame University. While attending this latter school he enlisted in the United States navy and was placed on the naval reserve list, serving thus for a period of three years. Upon his return home in 1919 he was admitted to the firm of the Zofkie-Foos Company and has since been giving his undivided attention to the affairs of that company. He is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church and is also affiliated with the Knights of Columbus and with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

J. HENRY MEYER, a well known architect and consulting engineer of Wapakoneta, former surveyor of Auglaize county and present city civil engineer, author and publisher of a standard atlas of Auglaize county and for years recognized as one of the real "live wires" in the civic life of this county, particularly as a potent factor in the development of the increasing demand for better homes and for better streets and highways, has done a work in this county that must be accounted as really remarkable when it is considered as the accomplishment of a man still in his early "thirties." When it is considered that he was just turning into his majority when he was appointed city civil engineer, and this at a time when the city of Wapakoneta was just beginning to be aroused to the modern demand for paved streets and all the essentials of improvement which accompany such a step, and that in the next year he was elected county surveyor, at a time when some of the county's most important drainage and highway problems were being worked out, it will be realized that the boy had frittered away no time while laying the foundations upon which this communal recognition of his abilities was based. That he was able to rise fully equal to all the responsibilities thus laid upon his youthful shoulders and to maintain this position so uprightly as to compel continued retention in the important and responsible branch of the public service for which he had so thoughtfully qualified himself is its own logical commentary. He "made good" from the outset and has so continued, so that now in the ranks of the many emi-

J. HENRY MEYER

nent consulting engineers and architects that are so deeply concerned in the practical "rebuilding" of the proud state of Ohio there are not many names more widely recognized than his, nor are there many whose counsels along those lines receive more respectful consideration than do his. By the standard of his work he has proved his right to speak and by the rightness of his judgments have his counsels attained weight. Henry Meyer has done much to emphasize the suspicion that long has been dawning upon the consciousness of the elders that this is an "age of the young men" and his work has been such as to reflect credit upon the judgment of those who had decided, even when he was little more than a boy, that he "had it in him" to go far along the line he had laid out for himself and were willing that the opportunity for public service should be his. That this confidence was not misplaced has been demonstrated through the years since these responsibilities were placed upon him and Auglaize county has profited by his services. Perhaps more than any other person it was he who "sold" the people of this county on the good roads proposition, even as it was he more than any other who "sold" the people of Wapakoneta on the important proposition of paved streets, and this sort of salesmanship is the kind from which all the community profits. Henry Meyer is a Wapakoneta product, born in that city on May 9, 1889, and is a son of William H. and Minnie L. (Schmidt) Meyer, both of whom are members of pioneer families hereabout, and who are still living in that city where they have resided for many years. Reared at Wapakoneta, Henry Meyer received his early schooling in St. Joseph's parochial school, supplementing this by a course in the city high school, from which he was graduated, and then he entered Ohio State University, where his studies were chiefly directed along the lines upon which he had determined as a boy, architecture and civil engineering. Upon thus qualifying himself for this profession he returned to Wapakoneta and not long afterward was elected city civil engineer. That was in 1910 and so effective have been his services in this behalf that he ever since has been retained in that position. About the same time he also was elected county surveyor and by re-election served in that office for four years (1911-15). In the summer of 1911 he married and established his home in Wapakoneta, where he and his wife are very pleasantly situated. It also was in that year that he became the general manager of the B. H. M. Cement Products Company and embarked in business in addition to his professional and public service duties; like all busy men, finding time to "look after more than one iron in the fire." In 1914, he added to his other activities the management of the Brown theater and for some years carried on that business until it was taken over by the present management of the theater. In the meantime his business as an architect constantly was growing and

his field in that line expanding, so that for years past the demands upon this form of service have not been confined to the local field, but have called him to other fields covering a wide territory hereabout, the substantial character of the Meyer architectural designs, combined with the "classy" individuality Mr. Meyer ever has been able to impart to these designs having long ago brought him recognition as one of the leading architects in Ohio. As county surveyor, Mr. Meyer did much to advance the cause of better drainage and better highways in this county, and in 1917 when the Auglaize County Good Roads Federation was organized he was made a director of that organization and secretary of the same. At the same time he continually was pushing the cause of better streets in his home town and in his official capacity of city engineer was seeing to it that in the carrying out of the city's extensive paving program the work done along that line should be fully up to standard, with the result that now it is a matter of just local pride that there are few, if any, cities of like population in the Middle West that have better streets and sidewalks than has Wapakoneta, and the same may be said of such sewer and waterworks extensions as have been made during Mr. Meyer's administration of that branch of the public service. One of the initial services rendered by Mr. Meyer in behalf of the public was that rendered in 1910, when, fresh from college, he issued a comprehensive atlas of the county, his maps and original surveys bringing down to date a service that long had been neglected. In 1917 he recognized the need of a further revision of the county atlas and meeting that need revised his former atlas, bringing all surveys down to date and compiling new maps and additional data, to which he added much comprehensive information of an official historical character, and published a new "Atlas and History of Auglaize County," a work of 166 pages, carrying complete farm maps of every township in the county and plats of all towns and villages, and setting a new standard in local map publication. Unfortunately, the great expense attendant on this publication was such that there could be no hope of profit, and in fact Mr. Meyer confronted a deficit when he came to balance his books and "close the files" on that enterprise that revealed him stript of the savings he had accumulated during the time of his other activities. However, in compiling that atlas he rendered an important public service and the book is a monument to his enterprise that cannot now be detracted from. Pocketing his losses with the ever ready smile with which he is able to meet all situations that may arise, Mr. Meyer buckled down to the continuing tasks that daily met him and has long ago charged off to "experience" his unfortunate foray into the publishing field. It was on June 21, 1911, that J. Henry Meyer was united in marriage to Leo Mary Blair, of Wapakoneta, daughter of Frank and Rosetta (Craig) Blair, and a member of

one of the pioneer families of this section of Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church and take a proper interest in parish affairs as well as in the general social and cultural affairs of their home town. Mr. Meyer is a past grand knight of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, is a director and former secretary-treasurer of the Wapakoneta Outing Club, is a member of the college fraternity, Kappa Sigma, and is affiliated with the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Modern Woodmen of America, the Improved Order of Red Men and the Loyal Order of Moose. Mr. Meyer is a former member (private) of old Company K, 2d Regiment (infantry) of the Ohio National Guard, with which he served for eight months. It was during this period of service that this company was called into Federal service in connection with the flurry on the Mexican border in 1916, being federalized at Camp Willis. He received his discharge at Columbus on July 31, 1916.

ERNEST J. BOWSHER, local agent for the American Railway Express at Wapakoneta and one of the best known young business men of that city, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Bowsher was born on a farm in Duchouquet township on June 26, 1888, and is a son of John G. and Sarah (Nungester) Bowsher, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the old families here. John G. Bowsher was born in Ross county, Ohio, and died on July 20, 1922. To him and his wife were born six children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Mrs. Marietta Mowery, Mrs. Annabel Porter, Mrs. Gertrude Bowsher and Mrs. Ella Miller, and a brother, Cloyd W. Bowsher. Reared on the home farm, Ernest J. Bowsher received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home in the northwestern part of Duchouquet township and until after his marriage at the age of twenty-six was variously employed. He then, in 1915, became employed at Wapakoneta as driver of the wagon for the Wells-Fargo Express Company and was thus engaged for six months, at the end of which time he was promoted to act as messenger on the local division of the Western Ohio lines between Wapakoneta and Celina and from St. Marys to Ft. Loramie, and he continued in this service until the consolidation of the local service of the Wells-Fargo Company and the American Express Company was effected at Wapakoneta in 1916, when he was appointed agent for these joint interests at that place. When in 1918, under the stress of war activity, the express interests of the country were merged into the American Railway Express, Mr. Bowsher was retained as agent of the latter interest at Wapakoneta and has since been serving in that important and responsible capacity. Mr. Bowsher is a Republican. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodge of

the Loyal Order of Moose at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. On December 31, 1914, Ernest J. Bowsher was united in marriage to Grace Chiles, who was born and reared in Union township, this county, and is a member of one of the pioneer families of the county. Mrs. Bowsher is a daughter of Seabury and Belle (Roney) Chiles, both of whom also were born in this county and the former of whom is a well-to-do farmer of Union township.

ERWIN J. GARMHAUSEN, manager of the St. Marys grain elevator for the Lock 2 Grain and Milling Company and formerly and for some years an active figure in community service work, a recognized expert along that line and a valuable factor in that service in connection with military camp community activities during the time of this country's participation in the World war, is a native son of Auglaize county whose activities since he left college have given him a varied and interesting experience. Mr. Garmhausen was born at Lock 2, formerly known as New Paris, on the canal just northeast of New Bremen, September 15, 1887, and is a son of Florenz and Cordelia (Hilgeman) Garmhausen, both members of pioneer families of this county and concerning whom further and fitting reference is made elsewhere in this volume, together with additional details regarding the Garmhausen family in this county. The late Florenz Garmhausen was a son of John Garmhausen, who came up here from Cincinnati in the early '50s of the past century, not long after the opening of the canal, and became engaged in the mercantile and milling business at Lock 2, establishing there a commercial and industrial enterprise which has ever been kept alive by the family and now in the third generation is being operated by the Lock 2 Grain and Milling Company, a Garmhausen concern, as is set out elsewhere. Florenz Garmhausen grew up to the business there at Lock 2 and after completing the course in a business college at Cincinnati devoted his time and attention to the further development of the business which his father had created, he and his brothers eventually organizing the Lock 2 Grain and Milling Company, of which he was elected president, a position he held until his death, and was succeeded by his son, Herbert Garmhausen, brother of the subject of this sketch, who continues as the head of the concern, whose activities also include the operation of the general store at Lock 2, as is set out elsewhere. Reared in the old home at Lock 2, Erwin J. Garmhausen was graduated from the New Bremen high school in 1909 and then entered Ohio State University, from which institution he was graduated in 1911 with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. During his course at the university, Mr. Garmhausen had given special attention to researches in connection with the rapidly developing field of social and general community welfare service and upon leaving

ERWIN J. GARMHAUSEN

school accepted an appointment to become conductor of welfare service at the Noel Settlement House, Washington, D. C. After a period of valuable service there he was called to Macon, Ga., as the director of the city recreational service there and was serving in that capacity when this country took a hand in the World war, when he enlisted his services in behalf of the war camp community service and was assigned to Newport News, Va., as director of recreational service, his neld of activity embracing the territory from Williamsburg to Old Point Comfort. He remained there from April, 1918, until the early part of 1919, when he received his discharge, the war then being over, and then took up special community service organization work in connection with the activities of Community Service, Inc., with headquarters at New York. He was given charge of the Virginia district, with residence at Richmond, where he remained until in March, 1922, when he returned home to take his place in the direction of the family interests incorporated in the Lock 2 Grain and Milling Company and was made manager of the grain elevator at St. Marys, which position he now is occupying, an active factor in the general business life of that city. Erwin J. Garmhausen married Hazel Karshner, daughter of Charles and Minnie (Bookwalter) Karshner, of Cleveland, Ohio, and to this union three children have been born, John F., Hilda Ruth and Hazel Jean. Mr. and Mrs. Garmhausen have a pleasant home at St. Marys and take an interested and helpful part in the general social and cultural activities of the community.

EDWARD M. STURGEON, a salesman for the Standard Oil Company, traveling out of St. Marys, one of the best known young men in that city, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of Auglaize county, the Sturgeons having been here from the days of the beginning of orderly settlement hereabout. Mr. Sturgeon was born on the old Sturgeon farm just west of the town of St. Marys on August 14, 1889, and is a son of Thomas and Rebecca (Crowe) Sturgeon, the latter of whom also was a member of one of the county's old families and both of whom are now deceased. The late Thomas Sturgeon was born on that same farm and was a son of Thomas S. and Mary D. (Ross) Sturgeon, who had settled there in 1830 and whose last days were spent on that place, influential and useful pioneers of the St. Marys neighborhood. Thomas S. Sturgeon, the pioneer, was a Pennsylvanian by birth, born in Mifflin county in 1803, and was about sixteen years of age when he accompanied his parents to Ohio, the family locating in the vicinity of Troy, the county seat of Miami county, in 1819. Ten years later (in 1829) Thomas S. Sturgeon was married in that county to Mary D. Ross, who also was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, and in the year following he and his wife established their home on the quarter section he had entered

from the government a few years prior to his marriage in section 4 of St. Marys township, in what then was in Mercer county but which in 1848 became a part of Auglaize county, this quarter section (the southeast quarter of section 4) adjoining on the west the St. Marys townsite, the original plat of which had been laid out in 1823. On that tract of unbroken woodland wilderness Thomas S. Sturgeon erected his log cabin and settled down to the clearing and development of a farm. It is narrated in one of the older local chronicles that after he had got himself settled here he found his remaining capital to be but fifty cents, but money was not such an essential to the pioneers as it is to their descendants in this day and he found himself getting along pretty well, for the woods were full of game and the problem of subsistence was not such a difficult one, after all. It was not long until he had the greater part of his land cleared and a good farm under way. In the middle '60s he erected on that place a substantial farm house, one of the best dwellings thereabout, for he had prospered and had become, as the older chronicle has it, "one of the solid men of the township." In that house his wife died on December 5, 1868. He survived her less than seven years, his death occuring on May 5, 1875. It has been written of this pioneer that "he was a quiet, reserved man of few words, which were always to the point. He held various local offices, and helped to organize the Presbyterian society at St. Marys, acting as elder of the church until his death." To Thomas S. Sturgeon and wife were born eight children, four of whom grew to maturity, and the Sturgeon family still is prominently represented in the community in which it has been known for nearly one hundred years. The junior Thomas Sturgeon, one of the sons of this pioneer couple, was born on that farm and there grew to manhood. After his marriage to Rebecca Crowe he established his home on the place, continuing to operate the farm, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on March 18, 1917. His widow survived him a little less than two years, her death occurring on February 27, 1919. They were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mary, and a brother, William T. Sturgeon. Reared on the old home farm west of town, Edward M. Sturgeon completed his schooling in the St. Marys high school and until he was about twenty-five years of age, or a year or two following his marriage, continued as an assistant in the labors of developing the farm. He then, in 1915, became employed as a traveling salesman, representing the Standard Oil Company throughout the territory assigned him, and has been thus employed since that time, making his home at St. Marys, he and his family being very comfortably situated at 111 North Ash street. It was on October 9, 1913, that Edward M. Sturgeon was united in marriage to Florence Schlechte, who was born in St. Louis, Mo., daughter of Louis and Dora Schlechte, and to this

union three children have been born, Louis, and Thomas and Mary Catherine (twins). Mr. and Mrs. Sturgeon are members of the Presbyterian church at St. Marys, of which Mr. Sturgeon's grandfather was one of the founders, and take a proper interest not only in the work of the church but in the general social activities of the community. Mr. Sturgeon is a Freemason and in his political views is "independent."

FRED WIEMEYER, secretary of the Arcade Department Store Company of New Bremen, former secretary of the City Building and Loan Company of that place, former city clerk and former member of the city council and in other ways actively interested for years in the civic and commercial life of that place, has been in business since the days of his boyhood and has a wide acquaintance throughout this part of the state. Mr. Wiemeyer was born at New Bremen on July 8, 1858, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Solms) Wiemeyer, both of whom were born in Germany but who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, both the Wiemeyer and Solms families having become pioneers of the New Bremen settlement. William Wiemeyer was but a lad when he came to this country with his parents and he grew up at New Bremen, where after his marriage he established his home and spent the remainder of his life, becoming one of the best known and most influential business men of that community. He early started a little store, handling a general line, dry goods, groceries, etc., and as his business expanded added to his stock until his place on Washington street became a real village emporium. He also during the days of canal activity was extensively engaged in the grain business and in pork packing and was one of the real factors in the development of the commercial activities of the place, continuing actively engaged in business until his death. He and his wife were the parents of five children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Sophia, and a brother, William Wiemeyer. Reared at New Bremen, Fred Wiemeyer received his schooling in the local schools and began to learn the dry goods business, early familiarizing himself with the details of this line. With a view to enlarging this experience, after he left school he went to Wapakoneta in 1874, he then being sixteen years of age, and for three years was engaged there as a clerk in the J. H. Timmermeister store. In 1877 he took a course in the Miami Commercial College at Dayton and for a short time thereafter was engaged as a clerk in a Dayton dry goods store, but presently returned to Wapakoneta and was for two years engaged there as a clerk in the Peoples Bank. Thus equipped by a pretty general business course, Mr. Wiemeyer returned home and in 1880 opened at New Bremen a general store that for its up-to-date character was something new in the town and he has ever since been

engaged in business there, continuing to operate his store alone until 1903 when he effected a merger of his interests with those of the old Speckman-Nieter store, the Theodore Rabe store and the Faehl & Nieter store, a merger of four establishments, the combination being incorporated as the Arcade Department Store Company, and he was elected secretary of the same, a position he since has occupied. Further details regarding this department store are set out elsewhere in this work. Mr. Wiemeyer for a number of years was secretary of the City Building and Loan Association of New Bremen and has in other ways been active in the business affairs of the community. He is a Democrat and has ever given his interested attention to local civic affairs, having served several terms as a member of the town council. He also has served as town clerk and as a member of the local school board. Mr. Wiemeyer has been twice married. His first wife was Mary Reichle, daughter of John Reichle. She died leaving one child, a daughter, Bertha, who married Roy Hawkey, of St. Marys, now recorder of Auglaize county, and died a few years ago leaving one child, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth. Mrs. Mary Wiemeyer died in 1901, and in 1905 Mr. Wiemeyer married Alinda Lanfersieck, daughter of J. F. Lanfersieck, a member of one of the old families of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Wiemeyer have a pleasant home at New Bremen and take an interested part in the general social activities of the community.

DR. H. H. VORDERMARK, D. D. S., a well known young dental surgeon at New Bremen, at which place several years ago he succeeded to the practice of the late Doctor Burke, was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Shelby on January 26, 1890, and is a son of R. G. and Elizabeth (Wiervelle) Vordermark, the latter of whom was born in Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. R. G. Vordermark, who is now living retired at New Knoxville, this county, was born at Cincinnati, but in his youth became a resident of this part of the state and after his marriage located on a farm in Shelby county, where he engaged in farming until 1900, when he retired and moved to New Knoxville, where he is now living, very pleasantly situated. To him and his wife were born four children, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Caroline, and a brother, William Vordermark. H. H. Vordermark was ten years of age when his parents moved from Shelby county to New Knoxville and he supplemented the schooling he received there by a course in Heidelberg Academy at Tiffin, after which for two years he was engaged in teaching school. He then went West and spent a couple of years in South Dakota. Upon his return to Ohio he became employed as a carrier on a rural mail route, in the meantime perfecting himself in the study of short hand, and not long afterward took the civil service examination for stenographers

DR H. H. VORDERMARK

in the Government service and was attached to the office of the department of Indian affairs in the Interior Department at Washington, D. C. For four or five years he was thus engaged, meantime giving his attention to the study of dentistry and presently entered the dental department of the George Washington University at Washington and in 1917 was graduated from that institution. Doctor Vordermark was in no hurry about seeking a definite and permanent location for practice and thus when in 1919 a field was opened at New Bremen by the death of Doctor Burke he took over the latter's lease at that place and has since been engaged in practice there, where he has become well established and has done well. Since taking that office, Doctor Vordermark has made numerous improvements in the office and has added to his equipment such up-to-date appliances as an X-ray apparatus and other details now regarded as essential to a modern dentist's office. The Doctor is a member of the Mercer-Auglaize Dental Association and keeps fully abreast of all late developments in his profession. He and his wife are members of Zion's Reformed church at New Bremen and he is the present treasurer of that congregation. Dr. H. H. Vordermark married Esther Reineking, daughter of Fred Reineking, and has a very pleasant home at New Bremen.

WILLIAM UETRECHT, a well known merchant of St. Marys, proprietor of a well appointed grocery store there, was born on a farm west of New Bremen, in this county, September 18, 1861, and is a son of Christian and Sophia (Waterman) Uetrecht, both of whom were members of pioneer families in the New Bremen neighborhood. Christian Uetrecht was of European birth, born in the vicinity of Linden, in the kingdom of Prussia, and was fifteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and locating on a farm west of New Bremen, in this county, where the Uetrecht home was established. On that pioneer farm Christian Uetrecht grew to manhood and after his marriage established his home there, taking over the operation of the home farm of ninety acres, and on that place spent the remainder of his life, one of the substantial citizens of that community. To him and his wife were born eight children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having five brothers, Henry, Fred, Herman, John and Emil Uetrecht. Reared on the home farm in German township, William Uetrecht received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and as a young man continued working as a farmer until he was about twenty-one years of age, when in 1882 he became employed as a carpenter and cabinet maker, a vocation he followed for eighteen years, at the end of which time he started a grocery store at Ft. Wayne, Ind. For eighteen months he continued in the grocery business at Ft. Wayne and then he returned to this county and opened a

grocery store at New Bremen. For fourteen years Mr. Uetrecht remained in business at New Bremen and then he disposed of his grocery store and was employed in the furniture factory for two years, at the end of which time, in 1916, he moved to St. Marys, established himself in the grocery business in that city and has since been thus engaged, one of the best known merchants in the city. Mr. Uetrecht is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of St. Paul's Reformed church. William Uetrecht married Anna Hespe, who also was born in German township, this county, a member of one of the pioneer families of that part of the county, and to this union five children have been born, Laura, Fredia, Edna, William and Lester, the three first named of whom are married. Laura Uetrecht married Emil Wellman and has four children, Annabelle, Roland, William and Carl. Fredia Uetrecht married Clem Crowe and Edna Uetrecht married Simon Hay and has two children, Mary Louise and Richard.

WILLIAM SCHELPER, a well known live stock buyer of this county and proprietor of an old established meat market at New Bremen, was born at New Bremen and has lived there all his life. Mr. Schelper was born on September 30, 1867, and is a son of Henry and Annie (Websey) Schelper, both of whom were born in Germany and the latter of whom is still living, making her home at New Bremen, where she has resided for many years. The late Henry Schelper, who established the business in New Bremen in which his son William is now engaged, grew up in Germany where he became a skilled butcher and where he was married. Shortly following their marriage he and his wife came to this country and proceeded on out into Ohio and located at New Bremen. When Henry Schelper arrived at New Bremen he was practically "broke," it having taken all his available funds to finance the trip over, and he sought the first "job" that offered. This happened to be a place on the construction force that then was erecting the woolen mill at New Bremen and he went to work with the gang that was digging the basement for the same. This was but incidental employment, however, for his plan upon coming here was to become engaged in the butcher business, a trade for which he had thoroughly qualified in the old country, and after establishing himself in his new home he borrowed a few dollars from a friend to buy his first butcher stock, rented a small room and started in with a retail meat market. It was not long until he had his trade established and from that day until the time of his death in 1895 he continued to do a thriving business, having thus founded the establishment which is still being carried on so successfully in the present generation. To Henry Schelper and wife were born seven children. Of these three—Maymie, Katie and Henry—are dead, the others besides the subject of this sketch being Elizabeth, Dora and Rosenna. Reared at New Bremen, where he was born, William Schelper received

his schooling in the schools of that place and early made for himself a place in his father's meat market, learning there all departments of the business, and remained with his father until the latter's death. For a year thereafter he carried on the business in his mother's behalf and then took over the shop and has since been engaged in business for himself. During this time Mr. Schelper has continued to occupy the old stand established by his father, but has improved it by the addition of modern appliances and facilities for the up-to-date conduct of a meat market until he has one of the best equipped establishments of this sort in western Ohio. When fourteen years of age William Schelper took his first lessons in stock buying from his father and he has ever made a specialty of that end of the business. In 1914 he began buying live stock for the market and has since been shipping cattle East, having built up an extensive business along that line. Mr. Schelper is a Democrat. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of the St. Paul's Lutheran church. His wife (Elizabeth Ellerman) is a daughter of Henry Ellerman.

ANDREW H. LAMPERT, treasurer of Auglaize county and one of the best known young men hereabout, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life save for a period of four years during the days of his youth when he was employed in a drug store at Cincinnati. Mr. Lampert was born at Minster on December 26, 1893, and is a son of Ben and Anna (Pauswells) Lampert, the latter of whom also was born at Minster, a member of one of the old families there, and both of whom are still living there. Ben Lampert was born at Cincinnati. Early orphaned, he was reared in the household of kinsfolk at Minster, where he grew to manhood and where he received his schooling. After his marriage he bought a farm in the immediate neighborhood of Minster and continued actively engaged in farming until his retirement and removal to Minster, where he is now living. He has a well improved farm of fifty-two acres and is well situated. To him and his wife were born six children, all of whom are living save one, Charles—the others besides the subject of this sketch being Carrie, Ben, Jr., Alfred and Cletus. Ben Lampert, Jr., is a veteran of the World war, his station having been at Camp Beauregard in Louisiana. Reared at Minster, Andrew H. Lampert received his schooling in the schools of that place and after leaving school went to Cincinnati, where for four years he was employed in a drug store. Upon his return home Mr. Lampert became employed in the office of the Minster *Post*, where he remained for three years, during which time he became well trained in the several departments of newspaper work. He then transferred his services to the *Evening Leader* at St. Marys and remained with that newspaper for four years, at the end

of which time he began working in the plant of the Creamery Patron Printing Company at St. Marys and was thus engaged when during the campaign of 1920 he received the nomination of the Republican party in this county for the office of county recorder. In years past the nomination to office on the part of the Republicans of Auglaize county had been a rather barren and empty honor, but in 1920 the political tide turned and the entire Republican ticket was elected in this county, Mr. Lampert thus going into the recorder's office by a handsome majority. He entered the office in September of the following year and was thus serving as recorder of the county when in the following February a vacancy was created in the county treasurer's office by the death of George H. Katterheinrich, county treasurer. The county commissioners appointed Mr. Lampert to fill the unexpired term and on February 22, 1922, he left the recorder's office and went up the corridor to the treasurer's office, where he since has been in charge. In the election of 1922 he was re-elected to the office of county treasurer by a majority of 1,297 votes, a pretty substantial testimonial of the esteem in which his public services are held in this county. Mr. Lampert has been an earnest worker in the ranks of the Republican party in this county since the days of his boyhood and is regarded as one of the younger leaders of that party hereabout. He is a member of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster and of the local council of the Knights of Columbus there and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta and with the local Kiwanis Club of that city, of which latter organization he is one of the most active "boosters".

DR. GEORGE L. LYNE, a practicing physician at Wapakoneta and district health commissioner for Auglaize county, is a native son of Ohio and has resided in this state all his life, a resident of Wapakoneta since 1915. Doctor Lyne was born on a farm in Morgan county, this state, November 8, 1868, and is a son of Theodoric and Philena (Mummey) Lyne, the latter of whom was born in that same county, a member of one of the pioneer families there. Theodoric Lyne was born in Loudoun county, Virginia, of English ancestry, and was ten or twelve years of age when he came with his parents to Ohio, the family settling in Morgan county, where he grew to manhood. For some time in the period of his young manhood he was engaged in the cooperage business, but presently bought a farm and was thereafter engaged in farming. Both he and his wife spent their last days in Morgan county. They were the parents of seven children, but Doctor Lyne is the only one of these who resides in Auglaize county. One of his brothers, Dr. T. J. Lyne, is a practicing physician at Stockport, Ohio, and another brother, Judge John Q. Lyne, is judge of the common pleas court for Morgan county, at McConnellsville, Ohio. Several paternal uncles live in Union county,

DR. GEORGE L. LYNE

this state. Doctor Lyne's early schooling was received in the schools of his native county and for some time after leaving school he was engaged during the winters in teaching school. He then entered college, but before completing the course took up the study of pharmacy in the drug store of his brother in the village of Stockport in Morgan county. Thus prepared for further study along that line he presently entered the Ohio Medical College, where he studied medicine and pharmacy, but did not complete either course there, after awhile entering Ohio Northern University, where he completed the pharmaceutical course in 1895. He then entered the medical school of Dartmouth College and in 1896 received his medical degree from that institution and located at New Paris, in Preble county, where he opened a drug store and an office for the practice of medicine. For about ten years Doctor Lyne remained at New Paris and then he moved to Washington county, this state, where he became engaged in practice and where he remained until 1915, when he moved to Wapakoneta, where he since has been engaged in practice. In 1920, upon the creation of the office of district health commissioner, Doctor Lyne was appointed health commissioner for Auglaize county and is thus serving in that important official capacity. The Doctor is a Freemason, a member of the Masonic lodge at Lowell, Ohio, and is also affiliated with the lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at that place and with the lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles of Wapakoneta. He is independent in politics. On May 10, 1896, Dr. George L. Lyne was united in marriage to Emma Riecker, of Stockport, Ohio, and to this union two children have been born, a son, Dr. Frank R. Lyne, who was graduated from the Western Reserve Medical College in 1922, and is now a pathologist with the Hanna Foundation, and a daughter, Edith, who is a student in Miami University at Oxford, Ohio.

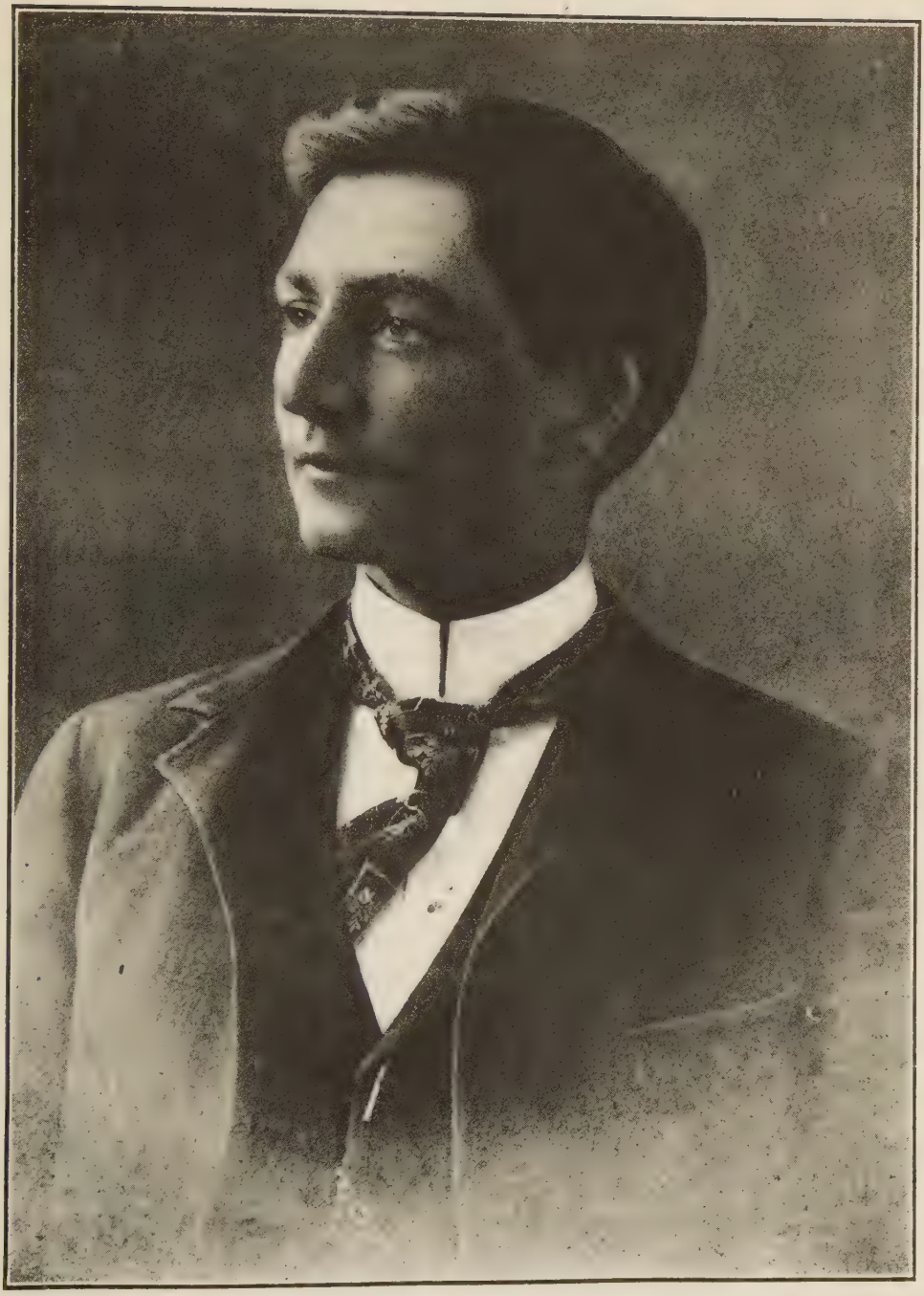
OHIO W. TAYLOR, for years one of the best known citizens of New Bremen, a former member of the town council and present agent at that place for the Lily White Gas and Oil Company, in charge of that company's filling station there, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of New Bremen for the past forty years and more. Mr. Taylor was born at Georgetown, in Brown county, Ohio, December 11, 1847, and is a son of the Rev. George and Mary (Watterman) Taylor, the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania, of Dutch stock. The late Rev. George Taylor was born on the Isle of Guernsey, the second in size of the Channel Islands, off the English coast, and was about eleven years of age when he came to this country with his parents in the late '30s of the past century, the family settling at Bethel in Clermont county, this state, where he grew to manhood. He early qualified himself as a school teacher and

after his marriage established his home at Georgetown, where he taught his first term of school. He continued teaching for a number of years, meanwhile studying for the gospel ministry, and at New Vienna, in Clinton county, was ordained a minister of the Baptist church, his ministerial duties thereafter taking him to various points during the fifty years of his continuous service in the pulpit and his last days were spent in Nebraska, where he died in February, 1920, he then being ninety-three years, four months and three days of age. Of the seven children born to the Rev. George Taylor and wife, five grew to maturity, those besides the subject of this sketch being Ellen, Judson, Henry and Melita. Due to his father's pastoral itinerary, Ohio W. Taylor's schooling was received at various points and was ever helpfully supplemented by the sound training he received at home. He early became attracted to the telegrapher's key and during the days of his young manhood was for several years employed as a telegraph operator, the last place he was thus employed before taking up his residence at New Bremen having been at De Graff, in the neighboring county of Logan, where he was employed by the Big Four Railway Company. In the meantime he had become familiar with the shipping business, with particular reference to country produce and in 1880 left railway work and became the local agent at New Bremen for the firm of Thomas & Son, of Sidney, dealers in butter, eggs and poultry. For fourteen years Mr. Taylor continued to act as the local agent for this concern at New Bremen and then he became the village night watchman, a position of public trust which he occupied for about fifteen years. In October, 1920, Mr. Taylor became connected with the Lily White Oil Company's operations and has since had charge of that concern's well equipped filling station at New Bremen, supplying oil and gasoline to the general trade as well as to the automobile trade. Mr. Taylor is a Republican and has rendered public service as a member of the town council. He is one of the charter members of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen, is a past chancellor commander of the lodge and has represented the same in the state grand lodge. In 1892 Ohio W. Taylor was united in marriage to Caroline Hayes, of De Graff, and of the children born to this union seven grew to maturity, namely: Winona, Lulu, Melita, Caroline, Earl, James and George, the last named of whom, a veteran of the World war, is now serving as clerk in the office of the probate court of Auglaize county. Winona Taylor is the wife of Paul Greatz. Lulu Taylor married Herbert Schulenberg and has three children, Cade, Elton and Ione. Melita Taylor married Charles Steinbrey and has two children, Elizabeth and Charles. Caroline Taylor married Joseph Brucken and has one child, a son, Harold. James Taylor married Rhea Riley and has one child, a son, Paul, and George Taylor married Freda Moeller and has one child, a daughter, Mary Jane.

ANDREW HELMSTETTER, former head of the old volunteer fire department at St. Marys and formerly and for years engaged in the transfer business in that city, but who now is living retired, one of the best known men in St. Marys, was born in the city of Pittsburg, Pa., April 13, 1856, and is a son of Joseph and Catherine (Gasman) Helmstetter, both of European birth, the latter born in the grand duchy of Baden and the former in the kingdom of Bavaria, who became residents of St. Marys in the late '50s and whose last days were spent there. Joseph Helmstetter was reared in Bavaria and grew up there trained to the cooper's trade. As a young man he came to this country and located at Pittsburg, where he established his home after his marriage and where he remained until 1859, when he came to Ohio and settled at St. Marys, which at that time was a center for the cooperage industry, the stave factories there and the millions of hoop poles hauled in from all directions thereabout, following the opening of the canal, creating a call for coopers which brought men of that craft here from all over the country. Joseph Helmstetter was a good cooper and he did well at his trade at St. Marys, where he spent the remainder of his life, one of the active figures in the industrial life of that town during the closing years of the pioneer period. To him and his wife were born six children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Ferd and Joseph Helmstetter. Andrew Helmstetter was but a child of three or four years when his parents moved from Pittsburg to St. Marys and he grew to manhood in the latter place, receiving his schooling there. As a young man he became employed in the maintenance of way department of the railroad and presently was made foreman of the local section of that department's work, a vocation he followed for several years or until in 1881, a year or two following his marriage, when he became engaged in the drayage and transfer business at St. Marys and worked up quite a successful business along that line. Mr. Helmstetter continued in this calling for thirty-eight years or until his retirement in 1919, since which time he has been in a position to "take things easy," following his many years of active and strenuous service. He is a Democrat and has ever taken an interested part in local civic affairs, for seventeen years having served as head of the old volunteer fire department at St. Marys. He and his wife are members of the Holy Rosary Catholic church and he is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus. The Helmstetters have a pleasant home at 133 South Pine street. It was on November 25, 1879, that Andrew Helmstetter was united in marriage to Mary Walter, who was born at St. Marys, daughter of Michael Walter, one of the pioneers of that town, and to this union nine children have been born, all of whom are living save two who died in infancy, the others being Joseph, Anthony, George, May, Bernard, Agnes, and Matilda, the two first named of

whom are married. Joseph Helmstetter, who is engaged in the coal business at Dayton, married Addie Haysbrook and has three children, Ralph, Mary Ellen and John. Anthony Helmstetter, a shipping clerk, married Elizabeth Luma and has one child, Angelo. George Helmstetter is a stock keeper and Bernard Helmstetter, a veteran of the World war with an overseas record, is a mail carrier. The Misses May, Agnes and Matilda Helmstetter are accomplished musicians and as "The Helmstetter Trio" have become widely known as professional entertainers on the Chautauqua circuit. During the time of this country's participation in the World war their talents were contributed to the cause of the soldiers welfare service and in that connection they gave no fewer than sixty concerts in the Government camps in the vicinity of Washington. May Helmstetter's specialties are piano and vocal, Agnes Helmstetter plays the violin and xylophone and Matilda Helmstetter is a violoncellist and reader.

OLIVER S. BRECOUNT, former proprietor of the old Lock 2 grain elevator, a resident of St. Marys and a well known grain man throughout this part of the state, left a good memory at his passing in 1907, and it is but fitting that there should here be presented some slight tribute to that memory. Mr. Brecount was born on a farm in Miami county, Ohio, in 1878, and was a son of Hon. H. H. Brecount, a substantial farmer and landowner of that county, who was also widely known as a horse dealer and who was an active figure in the civic life of that section of the state, having served his district as a representative in the Legislature. The Brecounts are of French descent, the first of the family to settle in Ohio having been H. H. Brecount's grandfather, who came here from the French province of Loraine. His mother also was a native of Loraine. Reared on the home farm in Miami county, Oliver S. Brecount supplemented the schooling received in the local schools by a course in Ohio Northern University at Ada and for several years thereafter was engaged in teaching school. He was a particularly well skilled penman and in pursuit of further proficiency along this line became a graduate of the Penmanart School at Delaware. After his marriage Mr. Brecount became engaged as a grain operator, building a grain elevator at St. Paris, in Champaign county, and became a member of the firm of McMoran Bros., of that place, a connection he maintained until his death. He also had other interests along this line, one of which was the old grain elevator at Lock 2 along the canal in this county and it was during the time of his activities in this connection that he bought the house at St. Marys in which his widow is now living. Oliver S. Brecount died at Thackery, in Champaign county, this state in 1907. He was a Republican and for some time during the time of his residence in Champaign county had served as president of the local school board. He was a member of the Knights of Pythias order and was



OLIVER S. BRECOUNT

a member of the Lutheran church, as is his widow. It was in 1892, in Champaign county, that Oliver S. Brecount was united in marriage to Emma Snapp, who was born in that county, and to this union were born three children, namely: Hubert Brecount, who served as a mechanic in the aviation corps, stationed at St. Louis, during the time of this country's participation in the World war and who is now at home; Mrs. Helen Frahm, now living at Detroit, Mich., and Virginia, who is at home with her mother. Mrs. Brecount is a daughter of Daniel and Julia (Berger) Snapp, both members of old families in Champaign county. Daniel Snapp was born in that county, his parents having settled there upon coming to Ohio from Pennsylvania. The father of Daniel Snapp, of Pennsylvania Dutch stock, was a very successful farmer and cleared nine farms in Champaign county, presenting each of his nine sons with farms as a nucleus to their later land holdings. In this distribution Daniel Snapp received a farm of 100 acres and he continued farming until his retirement from the farm and removal to Columbus, Ohio, his last days being spent there in the home of one of his grandsons. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, eleven of whom are still living. Mrs. Brecount and her son and daughter have a very pleasant home at 725 West Spring street, St. Marys. It was to this home that Mrs. Brecount returned after the death of her husband. For some time she looked after the interests of her deceased husband's grain elevator at Lock 2 and then sold the plant to the Lock 2 Grain Company, which is now operating it.

WILLIAM MEYER, a well known and substantial farmer and landowner of this county, now living retired at St. Marys, where he has made his home for the past ten years and more, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life, a period of more than sixty years. Mr. Meyer was born on a farm in Washington township on May 26, 1859, and is a son of Cord and Margaret (Lamkuhl) Meyer, who were among the well known pioneers of that township. The late Cord Meyer was born in Germany and was twenty-five years of age when he came to this country. He made his way out into Ohio and settled in Auglaize county, establishing his home on a tract of land he bought in the southwest quarter of section 18 of Washington township. His original purchase there was a tract of eighty acres, but as his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of an excellent farm of 220 acres and was accounted one of the substantial men of that community. To him and his wife were born twelve children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Adaline, and three brothers, August, Fred and George Meyer. Reared on the home farm in Washington township, William Meyer received his schooling in the neighboring district school and from the days of his boyhood was a helpful

factor in the labors of developing the home farm. He married when twenty-seven years of age and then began farming on his own account, renting a portion of the home farm and upon the distribution of the estate came into 106 acres of that farm, which he presently sold and then bought a tract of 160 acres in St. Marys township and in 1910 made his home on this latter place. In the following year, however (1911), he retired from the farm and moved to St. Marys, where he has since resided, he and his wife having a very comfortable home at 214 North Perry street. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are Republicans. It was in 1886 that William Meyer was united in marriage to Catherine Longwith, who was born in St. Marys township, a member of one of the pioneer families of that part of the county, daughter of John and Ruth (Hockenberry) Longwith, and to that union have been born five children, Herbert, Vernon, Flossie, Howard and Ruth, all of whom are married. Herbert Meyer married Dessie Arnett. Vernon Meyer married Mayme Sauers and has one child, a daughter, Caroline. Flossie Meyer married Carl Stroh and has five children, Anna, Arabella, Everett, Mary and Eugene. Howard Meyer married Hope Smith and has one child, a son, Rodney, and Ruth Meyer married Ralph Hunter and has one child, a son, William.

AUGUST DIERKER, veteran merchant and tinsmith at New Bremen and former member of the town council there, for many years one of the best known business men in that part of the county, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has resided in this state all his life, a resident of New Bremen for more than forty years. Mr. Dierker was born in the city of Piqua on January 29, 1854, and is a son of Henry and Lucetta (Hoereth) Dierker, both of whom were born in Germany but had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth. Henry Dierker was early apprenticed to the cooper's trade at Piqua and followed that for some time, or until he gave it up and became engaged in the grocery business at Piqua, where he died in 1853. There were two other children besides the subject of this sketch, but one of whom is now living, Mr. Dierker having a brother, Louis Dierker. Reared at Piqua, August Dierker received his schooling in the schools of that city and when past thirteen years of age was apprenticed to a tinsmith. After three years of this apprenticeship he went to Cincinnati, where he worked for nine months, "finishing" his trade. He then returned to Piqua and started to work there as a journeyman tinner and was thus engaged there until 1879, when he came to New Bremen and began working for Vogelsang & Son in the stove store and tin ship and so continued until the death of the elder Vogelsang, when he formed a partnership with the latter's son, Emil Vogelsang, and the business was carried on under this arrangement for eighteen months, at the end of which time Mr.

Dierker bought his partner's interest in the business and has since been carrying on the concern's affairs alone. During all this time he has kept pace with the advance in the industry along that line and has an admirably equipped tin shop and well stocked stove store. He has been engaged in the tinning business for fifty-five years and is thus one of the real veterans in that line in this part of the state. Mr. Dierker is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, for two terms having served as a member of the town council. He is a past noble grand of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at New Bremen and also has been "through the chairs" of the encampment degree of that order and is likewise a past chancellor commander of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and he was a member of the board of trustees of that congregation at the time the handsome new church edifice was erected. Mrs. Dierker (Minnie Volpp) is a daughter of Henry Volpp. Mr. and Mrs. Dierker have an adopted daughter, Minnie, who married Carl Quist, of Lima, Ohio, and has one child, a daughter, Mary Louise.

JACOB C. ZINT, of the firm of Zint Bros., shoe dealers at Wapakoneta, was born in that city and has lived there all his life, engaged in mercantile pursuits since the days of his young manhood. Mr. Zint was born on February 22, 1869, and is a son of Joseph and Otilia (Braun) Zint. The late Joseph Zint, for many years a well known resident of Wapakoneta, was born in Switzerland and was thirty-five years of age when he came to the United States. He proceeded on out into Ohio and located at Wapakoneta, where for years he was connected with the operations of the brick kiln, and his last days were spent in that city, his death occurring on March 14, 1911. To him and his wife were born eleven children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Anna and Ida, and three brothers, William, George and Charles Zint. Reared at Wapakoneta, Jacob Zint received his schooling in the local schools and in his boyhood became employed in the brick yard. He worked there for six years and then became engaged in factory employment and a year later was made janitor of the old Third Ward school building (Williamson school), a position which he retained for six years, at the end of which time he became engaged in business, embarking in the refreshment, restaurant and confectionery line, subsequently opening a shoe store, and this was the beginning of the present successful Zint shoe store. For seventeen years Mr. Zint continued in this business in Wapakoneta, or until 1913, when he closed out all but the shoe line and this latter line continued until 1919, when he sold the shoe store and retired from business until in May, 1922, when he again established himself in the shoe business on Auglaize street, where he is doing well. Mr. Zint is a Democrat. He is affiliated with the local

aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church. On June 17, 1896, Jacob C. Zint was united in marriage to Catherine Schmidt, daughter of Capt. Henry Schmidt, of Wapakoneta, and to this union eleven children have been born, all of whom are living save one, these being Frederick, Beulah, Raymond, Kermit, Arthur, Lucille, Jacob, Mary Catherine, Eugene and Bobby. Frederick Zint married Pearl Olson and is now living in Detroit. The Zints have a pleasant home at 805 West Pearl street. Beulah, Raymond and Kermit Zint are now students at Ohio State University. Six of the children of this interesting family are musicians and have played professionally.

OLIVER H. SOLMS, of the firm of Burden & Solms, lumber dealers and proprietors of the saw mill at New Bremen, was born at New Bremen and has lived there all his life, an active factor in the industrial life of that community for many years. Mr. Solms was born on October 10, 1865, and is a son of Frederick and Louise (Haverman) Solms, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families of the New Bremen neighborhood. Frederick Solms was a native of Germany and was reared in that country, remaining there until he had passed his majority when he came to America and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating at New Bremen, where after his marriage he established his home and became engaged in the grocery business. He later became engaged in the packing business, making a specialty of sugar-cured hams and the products of his plant had a wide reputation in those days. He continued active in business until his death in December, 1874. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, four of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Frances and Emma, and a brother, Emil Solms. As will be noted by a comparison of dates above, Oliver H. Solms was but nine years of age when his father died, and he thus early was thrown pretty largely upon his own resources. He received his schooling in the New Bremen schools and early began working in the neighborhood as a farm hand, a vocation he kept up until he was twenty-five years of age, when he became employed as a teamster for the grist mill at New Bremen, continuing thus engaged for eight years, at the end of which time he started out "on his own" and began to do general draying about town, a line which he followed for six years. While thus engaged Mr. Solms began buying and selling timber and there found his forte. It was not long until he realized that all his time would have to be given to his growing timber interests and he gave up draying and started a saw mill and a general lumber business, one branch of which was the manufacture of his formerly celebrated "Buckeye" handles, his handle factory turning out a product which for some years was in wide demand. In October, 1919, Mr. Solms

OLIVER H. SOLMS

entered into a partnership with Fred Burden, of Wapakoneta, and the milling and lumber business which he had built up at New Bremen since has been carried on under the firm style of Burden & Solms. Mr. Solms is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the Reformed church. Mr. Solms married Clementine Gagel and to this union five children have been born, namely: Huldah, wife of James Bishop; Marie, wife of Wilmer George Gentzler; Carl, a veteran of the World war, and Frances and Frederick.

ARTHUR A. KLIPFEL, cashier of the Auglaize National Bank of Wapakoneta, formerly and for years secretary and manager of the Citizens Building and Loan Company and also former cashier of the Peoples National Bank of that city, for years recognized as one of the leading factors in the commercial life of the town, was born at Wapakoneta and has been a resident of that city all his life. Mr. Klipfel was born on August 27, 1875, and is a son of Augustus W. and Mary (Bitler) Klipfel, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here, and the latter of whom is still living, continuing to make her home at Wapakoneta, where she has resided for many years. She is a daughter of Arthur and Margaret (Baughman) Bitler, both members of old families in this county and of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume. The late Arthur Bitler, former treasurer of Auglaize county and for years thereafter actively engaged in the grain business in Wapakoneta, was but two years of age when his parents, William Bitler and wife, came up here from Columbus in 1834, two years after the Indians had retired from this region, and became prominent pioneers of the St. Johns neighborhood, as is told elsewhere. The late Augustus Klipfel was born on a farm in Duchouquet township, a son of William Klipfel, one of the pioneers of that part of the county, and was there reared. He later became engaged in business in Wapakoneta, where after his marriage in 1873 he established his home. For a period of forty years he was proprietor of a grocery store in Wapakoneta and also for years carried on a transfer line, his death occurring in that city in 1921. To him and his wife were born two sons, both of whom survive, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Fred A. Klipfel, present mayor of the city of Wapakoneta and of whom further mention is made elsewhere. Arthur A. Klipfel grew up in Wapakoneta and from the days of his boyhood was attracted to business forms, his early familiarity with this line of business being gained through close personal contact with the affairs of his father's store. Following his graduation from the Wapakoneta high school he took a course in the Eastman Business College at Poughkeepsie, N. Y., and then entered his father's store as a practical assistant, taking charge of the books and general business direction. Not long afterward he also was made secretary and office manager of the Citizens Building and Loan Com-

pany, which was then getting a start here and the business of which was long carried on in the office of the Klipfel grocery. In 1901 Mr. Klipfel was elected cashier of the Peoples National Bank of Wapakoneta and he transferred his connection from the store to the bank, remaining with the latter institution until the time of the organization of the Auglaize National Bank of Wapakoneta in 1911, when he was elected cashier of that bank and in that capacity has since been serving, one of the best known bankers in this part of the state. As was written of Mr. Klipfel in a local review prepared some years ago, "his treatment of the public is uniformly businesslike and courteous and has won for him legions of friends," an estimate to which these friends gladly give emphasis. On February 2, 1906, Arthur A. Klipfel was united in marriage to Elsie Haman, who also was born in Wapakoneta, daughter of F. H. and Virginia (Swink) Haman, and to this union two children have been born, Virginia and Arthur, Jr. The late F. H. Haman, father of Mrs. Klipfel, was for years one of the influential factors in the business life of Wapakoneta. He was the organizer and first president of the Auglaize National Bank and served in that capacity until his death in 1915, being succeeded to the presidency by the present president of the bank, William J. McMurray, who at the time of his election in 1915 was the editor of *The Auglaize Republican*. Mr. and Mrs. Klipfel have a very pleasant home at Wapakoneta and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the community. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are Democrats. Mr. Klipfel is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the local tent of the Knights of the Maccabees at Wapakoneta.

JACOB FRITZ, formerly and for years engaged in the music and wall paper trade at New Bremen, where he is now and for more than twenty years past engaged in the general insurance business and one of the best known men in that part of the county, is an European by birth but has been a resident of this country and of New Bremen for more than forty years. Mr. Fritz was born in the Rhine country in the kingdom of Bavaria on December 27, 1857, and is a son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Mohr) Fritz, also Bavarians, who spent all their lives in that country. Daniel Fritz was a shoemaker, a vocation he followed all his active life. To him and his wife were born four children, the subject of this sketch having had a sister, Charlotte, and two brothers, Charles and Philip Fritz. Reared in his native country, Jacob Fritz received his schooling there and remained there until he had passed his majority when, in 1880, he came to America and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating at New Bremen through the influence of friends who had preceded him to this place, and after his marriage established his home there and has continued to reside in

that pleasant little city. Upon settling at New Bremen Mr. Fritz became engaged clerking in a hardware store and was thus engaged for several years, at the end of which time he transferred his connection to the Purvus music and wall paper store and had charge of that establishment until 1901, when he acquired his present insurance agency and has since been engaged in the insurance business, in that time having built up an important clientele and has done well, handling not only fire insurance but cyclone insurance and automobile insurance. During the many years of his residence in New Bremen Mr. Fritz has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and has served the public in the capacity of township clerk and also as township assessor. He is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran church, as was his wife, who died on June 25, 1921. She was Dorothy C. Wolf, daughter of Philip Wolf.

EMIL H. FINKE, a veteran of the World war, with a major commission, and a present member of the Officers Reserve Corps of the United States army, formerly engaged at St. Marys as assistant general manager of the great plant of the Crane & MacMahon Company, manufacturers of spokes and wheels at that place, but who now is engaged as the assistant field superintendent of the Central Ohio Gas Company, was born at New Bremen, this county, July 20, 1881, and is a son of August and Elizabeth (Wolf) Finke, the latter of whom is a member of one of the old families of this county and is still living. The late August Finke was born at Cincinnati and was eighteen years of age when he came to this county and became employed as a barber at New Bremen, where he later was married and established his home. He became the proprietor of a barber shop there and also became engaged in the selling of sewing machines, a vocation he was following at the time of his death in 1895. To him and his wife were born four children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Dora, Bertha and Olga. Emil H. Finke was but fourteen years of age when his father died. He finished the course in the high school at New Bremen and then entered Ohio State University, where he remained for three years, at the end of which time he became engaged in the oil operations of the Neeley company, operating out of St. Marys, and was thus engaged when this country took a hand in the World war in 1917. He offered his services in that behalf and on August 17, 1917, was assigned to the officers training camp at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, where in due time he was commissioned captain. Thus qualified for service he was sent to the brigade depot at Camp Dodge to serve as an instructor, assigned to the 88th Division and was thus serving when the war came to an end, having meanwhile been promoted to the rank of major, and he received his honorable discharge in February, 1919. Upon the creation of the Officers Reserve Corps, Major Finke was appointed by the President

for service in this reserve, in the grade of major, and is thus serving in that behalf, the appointment being for a period of five years, this corps having been created for the purpose of providing a reserve of officers available for military service when needed. The President may order reserve officers to active duty at any time and for any period, but except in time of a national emergency, expressly declared by Congress, no reserve officer shall be employed on active duty for more than fifteen days in any calendar year without his own consent. Upon the completion of his military service Major Finke returned to St. Marys, where he had established his home after his marriage in the fall of 1910, and was employed as office manager in the local plant of the wheel works there. Not long afterward he was promoted to the position of assistant general manager of the works and thus served in that capacity, one of the most active figures in local industrial circles, until he transferred his services to his present connection with the field service of the gas company. It was on October 26, 1910, that Emil H. Finke was united in marriage to Louetta E. Orphal, who was born at St. Marys, daughter of Fred and Eliza Orphal, and to this union three children have been born, Robert, Eugene and Frederick. The Finkes have a very pleasant home at 312 North Wayne street. Major and Mrs. Finke are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are Democrats. The Major is a member of the local post of the American Legion and of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias.

JOSEPH C. COPELAND, representative in the lower House of the Ohio General Assembly from this district and for years an influential factor in educational circles hereabout, as teacher, supervisor and district superintendent having done much to advance the interests of the schools in this county, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of Auglaize county. He was born on a farm in the northeast quarter of section 27 of Union township, this county, July 25, 1881, and is a son of John Abner and Cynthia B. (Lusk) Copeland, both of whom also were born in this county, the Copelands and the Lusks having been among the earliest residents of Union township. The late John Abner Copeland, an honored veteran of the Civil war, was born in Union township, in what then was in Allen county but which in 1848 became a part of Auglaize county, in 1843, and was a son of Joseph P. and Mary Ann (English) Copeland, who had come here with their respective parents in the days of the early settlement of this region and were here married. Joseph P. Copeland was born in Greene county, this state, February 5, 1818, a son of Abner Copeland and wife, Virginians, and was seventeen years of age when in 1835 his father came up here and entered from the government a tract of land in the southeastern part of Union township (then in Allen county) and established his home there, becoming one of the most substantial pioneers of that section. Joseph

JOSEPH C. COPELAND AND FAMILY

P. Copeland became a helpful factor in the labors of developing that pioneer farm and after his marriage at the age of twenty-two years began farming on his own account and in time became one of the most substantial landowners in Auglaize county, the proprietor of more than 900 acres of land. It was on October 4, 1840, that he married Mary Ann English, who was born in New Jersey and who was but a child when she came to Ohio with her parents, John and Elizabeth (Fennimore) English, the family at first locating in Franklin county, whence, in 1833, they moved up here and became pioneers of Union township, lands there having begun to attract the attention of settlers following the exodus of the Indians the year before, the English family settling in section 22 in the immediate neighborhood of where the Copelands settled two or three years later and where the Lusks also had settled in 1833, it thus being clear that the subject of this sketch is of pioneer descent along all lines. In the Sutton "Atlas of Auglaize County" (1880) there is a page devoted to the Copeland family, made up of reproductions of crayon drawings that now are of priceless value to the family. Here are set out portraits of Abner Copeland and his wife and of Joseph and Mary Ann (English) Copeland and their son, John, and their three daughters, Dora, Jennie and Maggie, together with sketches of the old Abner Copeland log cabin and of the John English log cabin of 1833, offset by a large picture of the Joseph Copeland farm plant representing the period of the picture's publication, the large barn on the farm bearing date "1870," the whole presenting a view which now is invaluable for historical comparison. Joseph Copeland lived to be almost eighty years of age, his death occurring on June 19, 1902. John Abner Copeland, father of Representative Copeland, grew up on that pioneer farm and was eighteen years of age when the Civil war broke out. He straightway enlisted his services in behalf of the Union cause, going out with the first ninety-day men, and upon the completion of that service re-enlisted for the period of the war's duration and continued in service until his discharge in 1864 on account of illness. During this time he participated in considerable strenuous service, including the battle of Shiloh, and was discharged with the rank of sergeant. Upon the completion of his military service he returned home and not long afterward married Cynthia Lusk, daughter of Joseph and Julia Ann Lusk, who, as noted above, were among the pioneers of Union township, and after his marriage began farming on his own account, becoming the owner of 200 acres of his father's place, and continued actively engaged in farming until some little time after the death of his wife in 1918, after which he made his home with a daughter at Lima, where his death occurred in 1921, he then being seventy-eight years of age. For many years John Abner Copeland was one of the firm supporters

of the Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal church, which stood on the old Copeland farm in section 27 of Union township. He was a Republican and did his part in public service, for twelve years serving as a member of the board of education in Union township and in other ways doing what he could as a good citizen to advance the common good. To him and his wife were born eight children, all of whom are living save one, and thus the Copeland name is being carried on in the present generation. Joseph C. Copeland, son of John A. and Cynthia (Lusk) Copeland, was reared on the farm and his preliminary schooling was completed in the Union township high school, after which he entered Ohio Northern University at Ada and in 1904 was graduated there with the degree of Bachelor of Science. In the following year he was graduated from the commercial school of the university and also spent some months in the study of the fundamentals of law. In the meantime he had been giving some thought to a commercial career and for eight months was engaged in carrying on business in a partnership general store at Uniopolis, under the firm name of Lusk & Copeland, but after his marriage in 1905 established his home at Dayton, Ohio, where he was engaged in clerical work for three years, at the end of which time he returned to Auglaize county and for three years thereafter was engaged as a teacher and supervisor in the rural schools of Union township, filling in his vacations in clerical work. He then was made superintendent of the Uniopolis schools, a position he occupied for five years, at the end of which time he was made district superintendent of schools in this county, with supervision over the schools of the four townships, Duchouquet, Pusheta, Moulton and Logan, and the villages of Cridersville and Buckland, and was for three years thus occupied, or until in August, 1921, when he accepted the superintendency of the schools of the village of Van Buren, in Hancock county, one of the largest centralized schools in Ohio, it requiring thirteen trucks to carry the 412 pupils in attendance. In the meantime while faithful in school work, Mr. Copeland had been diligent also in other public service and in 1918 was elected to represent Auglaize county in the lower House of the Ohio General Assembly, the first Republican in the history of this county thus honored. In the memorable campaign of 1920 he was re-elected and is thus now (1922) serving his second term in the Legislature. Mr. Copeland's first public service was rendered as clerk of Union township, in which capacity he served for four years (1913-1917) and he afterward served as justice of the peace in and for that township. One of the special bits of service rendered by him as representative from Auglaize county in the Legislature was to secure an additional appropriation of $2,850 (now available) for the extension of the park surrounding the state preserve and monument at old Ft. Amanda, as is set out elsewhere in

this work. Mr. Copeland is a Freemason, up through the capitular and cryptic degrees, affiliated with the blue lodge and the chapter and council at Wapakoneta, is also a member of the local lodge of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Wapakoneta. In 1905 Joseph C. Copeland was united in marriage to Rowenna B. Wagstaff, daughter of H. V. Wagstaff and wife, of New Hampshire, this county, the former of whom is a hardware merchant in that village, having moved there from Upper Sandusky, this state, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Robert, born in 1910, and Emil, 1913. Upon leaving the school room following his election to the Legislature, Mr. Copeland moved to Wapakoneta, where he has since resided, and he and his family are very pleasantly situated at 607 East Bellefontaine street.

ALPHONS SCHNEIDER, well known proprietor of an automobile repair shop and painting establishment in Wapakoneta, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here the greater part of his life. Mr. Schneider was born on a farm in the Freyburg neighborhood in Pusheta township on December 11, 1877, and is a son of Michael and Catherine (Messmer) Schneider, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. Michael Schneider, who is now living retired in Wapakoneta, is an Alsatian by birth, born in the then French province of Alsace, which was taken over by Germany in 1871 and restored to France in 1918, and was but one year old when he was brought to this country by his parents, Michael Schneider and wife, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and settling in the Freyburg neighborhood in Pusheta township, this county, where the elder Michael Schneider established his home, became a substantial farmer and spent the remainder of his life. The junior Michael Schneider grew up on that farm and after his marriage began farming on the Messmer farm, afterward becoming the owner of a well improved farm of 100 acres in Pusheta township, where he remained engaged in farming until his retirement in 1904, when he sold his place and moved to Wapakoneta, where he since has made his home. To him and his wife were born twelve children, all of whom are living save one, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Mary, Matilda, Ida and Emma, and six brothers, Michael (III), Augustus, Robert, Leander, William and Albert. Reared on the home farm in Pusheta township, Alphons Schneider received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and remained at home, a helpful factor in the labors of developing the farm, until he was twenty-one years of age, when he went to Dayton, Ohio, and took employment in the car shops there. For sixteen years Mr. Schneider remained at Dayton and in the car shops became thoroughly familiar with all details of carriage painting and general repair work. He

then returned to this county and at Wapakoneta opened a general repair shop, with special reference to wood work, automobile and carriage tops and the painting of automobiles, and has done well in that line. Mr. Schneider has a well equipped establishment and the careful attention he is able personally to give to all departments of his place has established there a standard of work that is its own best commentary. In his political views Mr. Schneider is an "independent," reserving the right to his own opinions regarding men and measures regardless of party ties. He is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at Wapakoneta and of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles in that city and he and his wife are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church, in which faith their children are being reared. On November 18, 1903, Alphons Schneider was united in marriage to Frances Kunkle, of Dayton, Ohio, and to this union six children have been born, Edward, Walter, Bernard, Marcella, Dolores, Rita and Marie, all of whom are at home. The Schneiders have a pleasant home and take an interested part in the city's general social activities.

PATRICK H. REYNOLDS, formerly and for many years one of the "standbys" of the Buckeye Pipe Line Company, for years the company's oil gauger at St. Marys and now living retired in that city, one of the company's honored old pensioners, is a native of New York state but has been a resident of Ohio and of St. Marys for years and thus very properly feels himself completely a part of the community in which he lives and in which he is content to spend the pleasant "evening time" of his life. Mr. Reynolds was born on a farm in Cattaraugus county, New York, in February, 1853, and is a son of Patrick and Catherine (McMahon) Reynolds, natives of County Clare (Munster) in the Emerald Isle. The senior Patrick Reynolds and his wife both were reared in Ireland and were there married, almost immediately thereafter coming to the United States to make a home for themselves in the land which seemed to them to offer more of opportunity than then was possible in their native land, for that was about the time of the succession of crop failures in Ireland along in the late '40s, which together with political conditions there at that time, caused so many of the stalwart sons and plucky daughters of the Emerald Isle to emigrate to America. The sail boat on which Patrick Reynolds and his wife came to America's shores was an old vessel which required seven weeks and three days to make the passage and they were glad indeed when the voyage was ended. They began their homemaking on a farm in Cattaraugus county, New York, where in good time Patrick Reynolds became a landowner himself, the owner of a well kept farm of eighty acres, and there he and his wife spent their last days. They were devout Catholics and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these

MR. AND MRS. PATRICK H. REYNOLDS

children, of whom six are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Anna and Catherine, and three brothers, John, Thomas and William Reynolds. Reared on the home farm in Cattaraugus county, Patrick H. Reynolds received his schooling in the local schools of that neighborhood and remained on the farm assisting his father in the development of the same until he was twenty years of age, when he found there was not enough work on the farm to keep all the boys profitably engaged and he began working with a railway section crew. Within two years he had learned enough about maintenance-of-way work to become acceptable as a section foreman and he was promoted to such a position and sent to a railroad over in New Hampshire. For four years he continued to serve as a section foreman and then he took up another line of railway work, going into the railway blacksmith shop, where he remained for about six years, at the end of which time he returned to New York state and became engaged in construction work in connection with the operations of the Buckeye Pipe Line Company, a concern with which he ever since has been connected and which in 1920 honorably retired and pensioned him. It was not long after he took up this new work until Mr. Reynolds was promoted to the position of a foreman of construction, his long service in a similar capacity in connection with railway work giving to his services in pipe line construction a value that the company was quick to recognize, and he remained with the company's construction department in New York for seven years, at the end of which time he was sent to Ohio as foreman of the work that then was being undertaken in the St. Marys oil field in this state. Upon the completion of the pipe line Mr. Reynolds was appointed gauger for the company and he continued to serve in this capacity until his retirement in 1920, since which time he has been "taking things easy" at his comfortable home at 120 North West street, where he and his wife are pleasantly situated. Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds are members of Holy Rosary Catholic church at St. Marys and Mr. Reynolds is a member of Tent 190 of the Knights of the Maccabees. On September 6, 1876, in New York state, Patrick H. Reynolds was united in marriage to Catherine Jordan, who was born and reared in that state, daughter of Thomas and Catherine (McDonald) Jordan, who were the parents of six children, those besides Mrs. Reynolds being Thomas (deceased), Catherine, Daniel, Timothy and Anna. The elder Thomas Jordan and his wife were married in County Clare, Ireland, the place of their birth, and afterward had come to America and established themselves on a farm in Cattaraugus county, New York state, Thomas Jordan eventually coming to be the owner of a farm of sixty acres. To Patrick H. and Catherine (Jordan) Reynolds have been born six children, Jennie, Anna, Eva, Lillia, Laurence and Lena, all of whom are living and all married save Anna,

Lillia and Laurence, the last named of whom is now living at Detroit, where he is engaged in the insurance business and studying law. Jennie Reynolds married Thomas Clark, a telegraph operator now employed by the Ohio Oil Company at Noggle, in Darke county, and has two children, Thomas, Jr., and Patrick R. Eva Reynolds married William Schafer, now a farmer in Miami county, this state, and has one child, a son, William, Jr. Lena Reynolds, widow of the late William Axe and who is now living at Piqua, has two children, Harold and Emmet.

WILLIAM KLANKE, of the firm of Klanke & Company, furniture dealers of New Bremen, long recognized as one of the leading merchants of that thriving little city, has been a resident of New Bremen since the days of his childhood and there are few men in that part of the county who have a wider acquaintance than he. Mr. Klanke was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Shelby on December 4, 1861, and is a son of Christopher and Anna (Grewe) Klanke, natives of Germany, whose last days were spent in this country. Christopher Klanke was born in Hunderberg, Germany, and was about twenty-one years of age when in 1848, the year of the unsuccessful political revolution in that country, he came to America and settled at Cincinnati. He had learned the tailor's trade in his home land and upon his arrival at Cincinnati secured employment there as a tailor. Not long afterward, however, he came up into this part of the state and began working at New Bremen, but in less than a year he had become attracted to the possibilities of farming and bought a farm of eighty acres in Shelby county, where he established his home and where he remained about fourteen years or until the death of his wife, when he disposed of his interests there and returned to New Bremen, where he set up a tailor shop and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1899. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Elizabeth, and two brothers, George and Joseph Klanke. William Klanke was but a boy when his father returned to New Bremen and he completed his schooling in the schools of that place. He early began work as a farm hand in the neighborhood, his first wage along that line being at the rate of $60 a year, and continued working in this fashion for about five years, or until he was twenty-one years of age, when he began working for his brothers, the late John Klanke and George Klanke, who meanwhile had become engaged in the furniture business at New Bremen. There he learned the details of this business, at the same time becoming a proficient cabinet maker, and was engaged at cabinet making during the winters and at carpentering during the summers until presently the Klanke brothers established their general furniture factory in the village and he became one of the partners in that enterprise. When

this factory was destroyed by fire in 1914 William Klanke bought the other interests in the furniture store which had been maintained all this time by the Klanke Furniture Company and has since been operating the business alone, carrying a general line of furniture and home furnishings. He has a well equipped and well stocked store and has done well. William Klanke married Adelia Purpus, daughter of Louis Purpus, and has two children, Hilda, who married Harry Nussmeyer and has one child, a daughter, Phyllis, and Beata, who married Homer Isern. Mr. Klanke is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church.

RENO O. MOORE, proprietor of a well equipped barber shop in West Spring street, St. Marys, is a native son of Ohio and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of St. Marys for the past twenty years or more. Mr. Moore was born in Clinton county, Ohio, February 15, 1869, and is a son of Richard S. and Matilda (Evans) Moore. The late Richard S. Moore, a veteran of the Civil war, was born in the vicinity of Marietta, Ohio, and was living there when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and served with the 11th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry (later merged with other units), until the close of the war, being mustered out as a corporal. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Moore went to Clinton county, where he became employed as a carpenter and where after his marriage he established his home, remaining there until 1875, when he moved to Mercer county to take part in the extensive building program that was being carried out there about that time, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on December 26, 1918. To him and his wife were born eight children, of whom four are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Ella, who married Gabe Cox and lives in San Diego, Cal., and two brothers, Allen and James H. Moore. Reno O. Moore was but six years of age when his parents moved from Clinton county to Mercer county in 1875 and he grew to manhood in the latter county, receiving his schooling in the schools of that county. Until he was twenty-three years of age he followed the employment of a farm hand in his own county and then (in 1892) learned the trade of barber and became engaged in that line in Preble county. Ten years later, in 1902, he meantime having been married for some years, he moved to St. Marys and opened a barber shop in that city, establishing his home there at that time, and has ever since been thus engaged in business at that place, one of the best known barbers in this part of the state. Mr. Moore has a well equipped shop and is doing well in business, keeping up with all the modern developments in the tonsorial art. He is a Republican and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at St. Marys. It was on December 19, 1893, while living in Preble county, that Reno O. Moore was united in marriage to Anna

Kershner, who was born in Shelby county, this state, but who was reared in Auglaize county, daughter of F. Marion and Sarah Kershner, and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Marion and Naomi, the latter of whom is at home with her parents. Marion Moore, named in honor of his grandfather Kershner and who is now living in Canada, married Lillian Daugherty and has one child, a son, Donald.

MICHAEL HAUSS, retired manufacturer and grain man and substantial landowner of this county, formerly and for years a resident of St. Marys but now living at Wapakoneta, where he has resided since his retirement from the manufacturing field in the former city, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Hauss was born at St. Marys on November 7, 1860, and is a son of Michael and Margaret (Kolter) Hauss, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here. The senior Michael Hauss was a European by birth, born in the vicinity of Baden-Baden in the grand duchy of Baden, and his youth was spent there. As a young man he came to the United States and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating at St. Marys, where he became a landowner and where not long after his arrival there he became engaged in the grocery business and was for years thereafter regarded as one of the leading business men in that town, where his last days were spent. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mrs. Lina Stockwell and Mrs. Henrietta Folk, of St. Marys. Reared at St. Marys, the junior Michael Hauss received his schooling in the excellent schools of that city. He early turned his attention to the industrial field, becoming engaged in the manufacture of handles for farm and garden tools, and was thus engaged for twenty years, or until his retirement in 1912. His business activities have been pretty largely confined to Wapakoneta, where he has made his home and where he is very comfortably situated, having a delightful home at 414 West Auglaize street. Upon taking up his residence at Wapakoneta Mr. Hauss became engaged in the grain business and for some time gave much of his personal attention to the grain elevator, but of late has relegated that interest to others and is living in practical retirement from the active duties which formerly so closely engaged him, his chief interest being his fine farm of 110 acres alongside the river in the old Duchouquet section adjoining Wapakoneta on the west and including a beautiful woodland tract, one of the finest bits of native woodland still remaining in this county. Mr. Hauss keeps this woodland tract as clear as a park and in its depths he has erected a comfortable log cabin in the quiet seclusion of which he finds much comfort when weary of the noisier ways of the town. Mr. Hauss is a Democrat, is a member of the

MICHAEL HAUSS

local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta and attends St. Paul's church in that city. On November 13, 1889, Michael Hauss was united in marriage to Matilda Heller, of Wapakoneta, and he and his wife have one child, a daughter, Helen, who upon completing her schooling in the Wapakoneta schools took supplementary courses in New York and Delaware. She married William Schmidtlapp, now living in Montana, and has one child, a daughter, Jean Marie. Mrs. Hauss was born in Wapakoneta and is a daughter of Henry and Caroline (Rhorbacher) Heller, former well known residents of that city. Henry Heller was a native of Germany but came to this country in the days of his young manhood and located at Wapakoneta, where for years he was engaged in business as a wagon maker. He and his wife had five children, three of whom are still living, Mrs. Hauss having two brothers, William and George Heller.

DR. H. J. SCHMIDT, D. V. S., a well known veterinary surgeon of New Bremen and a former member of the town council there, is a native son of Auglaize county and has resided here nearly all his life, a practicing veterinarian at New Bremen for more than thirty years. Doctor Schmidt was born on a farm two and one-half miles west of New Bremen on January 13, 1867, and is a son of Henry and Louise (Koch) Schmidt, both natives of Germany and the latter of whom had come to this country with her parents in the days of her girlhood, the family settling in this county in pioneer days. Henry Schmidt grew to manhood in Germany and there took a course in veterinary surgery and medicine. Upon coming to this country he located at Cincinnati and was there employed in the office of a veterinary surgeon for five years, at the end of which time he came up into this part of the state and settled in Auglaize county, buying a farm in the New Knoxville neighborhood, where he began farming and at the same time carrying on his profession as a veterinary surgeon. Not long afterward he disposed of his interests there and moved to a farm of eighty acres which he bought two and one-half miles west of New Bremen, where he established his home and spent the remainder of his life, gradually enlarging his holdings until at the time of his death he was the owner of a fine farm of 120 acres. To him and his wife were born ten children, of whom five are still living, the subject of this sketch having one sister, Julia, and three brothers, Charles, William and Ben. Reared on the home farm, H. J. Schmidt received his early schooling in the district schools of his home neighborhood. From the days of his childhood he had been interested in his father's profession as a veterinarian and when fourteen years of age entered the old Columbia Veterinary College, which afterward became the American Veterinary College, and in 1886 was graduated from that institution. Thus equipped for the prac-

tice of his profession, Doctor Schmidt returned to New Bremen and opened an office there. A year later he moved to Delphos, where he remained for three years, at the end of which time he returned to New Bremen, reestablished himself in practice there and has ever since continued to make that his home, his practice covering a large part of this county and the adjacent sections of the neighboring counties. Doctor Schmidt is independent in politics and has served two terms as a member of the town council at New Bremen. He and his wife are members of Zion Reformed church. Mrs. Schmidt (Alice Huenke) is a daughter of Henry Huenke. To Doctor and Mrs. Schmidt have been born two children, Leonard and Goldie, the latter of whom recently was graduated from Miami University. Leonard Schmidt is following in the professional footsteps of his father and grandfather and is now a student in the Indiana Veterinary College at Indianapolis.

WILLIAM E. YODER, a well known young undertaker and funeral director at St. Marys, was born on a farm in Harrison township, Logan county, this state, December 12, 1892, and is a son of James L. and Almedia (Hinkle) Yoder, both of whom were born in that same county and the latter of whom is still living there. Her parents were Pennsylvanians. The late James L. Yoder was born in the city of Bellefontaine, county seat of Logan county, and was a son of Rudolph and Elizabeth (Detrick) Yoder, who came from Pennsylvania. After his marriage he established his home on a farm he had bought in Harrison township, that county, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in March, 1917. To him and his wife were born four children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Bertha Lee, and two brothers, Clarence H. and Leslie J. Yoder. Reared on the home farm in Harrison township, Logan county, William E. Yoder finished the course in the Bellefontaine high school and supplemented this by a course in the normal school at Manchester, Ind., specializing in commercial forms and teaching methods and then received an appointment as a teacher in the schools of Porto Rico. One year of teaching service on this tropical island proved enough for him, however, and in the next year he returned to Ohio and entered the Cincinnati College of Embalming, with a view to becoming a professional undertaker and funeral director. After a course in this college Mr. Yoder accepted a position as embalmer's assistant in an undertaking establishment at Jacksonville, Fla., and after two years of practical experience there returned to Ohio and opened an undertaking establishment at St. Marys, where he since has been located and where he has done well. Mr. Yoder has a well equipped establishment and his services as a funeral director are marked by close attention to the best methods accepted in modern practice. Mr. Yoder is a Free-

mason and is also affiliated with the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Knights of the Maccabees, while he and his wife are members of the German Reformed church. On November 12, 1916, William E. Yoder was united in marriage to Ertha Zollman, who also was born in Logan county, daughter of S. E. and Ora (Russell) Zollman, of Lewistown, and to this union two children have been born, Samuel Edward and Thomas Frederick. The Yoder undertaking establishment is advantageously located at the corner of Front and Spring streets, in the very heart of the business section of St. Marys.

EDWARD H. GERNETT, formerly engaged in the jewelry business in St. Marys and later and for years a clerk in the postoffice there, one of the best known citizens of that place, now living retired, was born at St. Marys on October 28, 1864, and is a son of Charles and Elizabeth (Morvilius) Gernett, who in their generation were among the well known residents of that city, and the latter of whom died there on September 16, 1896. The late Charles Gernett was an European by birth, born in the kingdom of Prussia on December 26, 1838, and was thirteen years of age when he came to this country with his brother in 1852 and located at Cleveland, Ohio. In that city he grew to manhood, working for a while in a machine shop but later taking up the jewelry line and remained there until about 1861 when after his marriage he established his home at St. Marys and in this latter city opened a jewelry store which he continued to operate until his retirement in 1899 and removal to California, where his last days were spent, his death occurring on April 11, 1907. To him and his wife were born three children, of whom the subject of this sketch alone now survives, he having had two sisters, Edith, who was the wife of William Swartz, and Amelia, who was the wife of David A. Clark. Reared at St. Marys, Edward H. Gernett received his schooling in the schools of that city and early became engaged in his father's jewelry store. After his marriage he continued thus engaged for some years, or until about 1892, when he transferred his connection to the postoffice and was there employed as a mail clerk for a period of twenty years, at the end of which time he went to Akron, but after a year's residence there returned to St. Marys and became employed in the office of the Western Ohio Electric Railroad Company's power plant there, and was thus employed for three years, at the end of which time he took service in the woolen mill and after three years there went to the plant of the wheel and spoke works, where he spent two years, at the end of which time he retired from active service and is now living quietly at St. Marys, he and his wife being pleasantly situated at 125 North Perry street. It was on October 27, 1887, at Coldwater, in the neighboring county of Mercer, that Edward H. Gernett was united in marriage to Jennie Viola (Levering), who was

born at Piqua, Ohio, daughter of Howard and Mary J. (Dunham) Levering, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Arthur Gernett, born on August 10, 1888, who died on January 3, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Gernett are members of the Presbyterian church and in their political views are independent of party ties.

GEORGE C. GOODRICH, a veteran of the World war and auditor in the office of Crane & MacMahon, Inc., at St. Marys, has not long been a resident of Auglaize county but during the time he has been here has impressed himself so definitely upon the business life of the community in which he has chosen to make his home that it is but proper there should be carried here some brief story of his career as an active and enterprising young business man. Mr. Goodrich was born in the city of Detroit, Mich., March 11, 1891, and is a son of George C. and Marianne (O'Leary) Goodrich, the latter of whom was a native of Wales, England. The late George C. Goodrich (senior) was for many years a railway express messenger, first running out of Detroit and later out of Pontiac. He died on April 21, 1902, and his widow survived him for almost fifteen years, her death occurring on April 1, 1917. They were the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Madeleine. Reared at Pontiac, Mich., to which place his parents had moved when he was a child, the junior George C. Goodrich completed the course in the Catholic parochial school there and then became engaged in clerical work. He was but eleven years of age when his father died and after leaving school he found it necessary to rely pretty largely upon his own resources for a livelihood. For years he continued working as an accountant, all the time seeking to advance his position in the world and in time entered the night class in accounting in the Young Men's Christian Association at Detroit, in which city he then was working, and there mastered the details of this difficult branch of commercial work. In December, 1916, he passed the state examination for certified public accountants and received an official certificate of competency, his labors in Detroit thereafter being performed as a certified public accountant. Not long after receiving his certificate Mr. Goodrich became employed as the auditor in the office of the Detroit Insulated Wire Company and was thus engaged when this country took a hand in the World war in 1917. In the following year he entered the service and was assigned to the headquarters detachment of the 14th Division, with rank of sergeant, and continued in service for eight months or until honorably discharged at Camp Custer on February 18, 1919, the war then being over. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Goodrich returned to Detroit and resumed his former employment with the wire works people and continued thus engaged until in March, 1920, when he accepted his present position as auditor in the office of Crane & MacMahon, Inc.,

GEORGE C. GOODRICH

at St. Marys and has since made his home in that city, he and his family having a very pleasant home at 111 South Wayne street. On April 9, 1918, at Pontiac, Mich., George C. Goodrich was united in marriage to Rita Vanasse, who was born at Lowell, Mass., but who was reared in Michigan, and to this union one child has been born, a son, George C. Goodrich IV, born on March 5, 1920. Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich are members of Holy Rosary Catholic church and he is the present grand knight of the local council (No. 1592) Knights of Columbus. He also is a member of the local post of the American Legion at St. Marys.

WILLIAM BITLER, of the firm of Hauss & Bitler, dealers in grain and proprietors of an old established grain elevator at Wapakoneta, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here, and has lived here all his life, a resident of Wapakoneta since the days of his childhood. Mr. Bitler was born on a farm in the St. Johns neighborhood in Clay township on April 7, 1858, and is a son of Arthur and Margaret (Baughman) Bitler, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families in the eastern part of the county. The late Arthur Bitler, former treasurer of Auglaize county and one of the best known men of his generation in this county, also was a native of Ohio, born in the city of Columbus, and had been a resident of this county since the days of his childhood, back in the days before there even was an Auglaize county, when that part of this present county in which his father settled in pioneer days was attached to Allen county. He was born on April 3, 1832, and was barely two years of age when his parents, William and Rebecca (Snyder) Bitler, moved up into this part of the state in the spring of 1834 and settled on a tract of land which William Bitler in that year had entered from the Government in section 4 of Clay township, in what then was Allen county but which in 1848 became a part of the newly erected Auglaize county. This was in the vicinity of the old Blackhoof Indian village in the Wapakoneta reservation, from which the Indians had been removed but two years before, and was right in the primeval forest, but the Bitlers settled down there and in due time carved a farm out of the place. William Bitler, the pioneer, was a Pennsylvanian, born in the vicinity of Reading on February 22, 1807. When he was five years of age, in 1812, his parents moved from that place into Schuylkill county, same state, where he grew to manhood and on February 27, 1828, was married to Rebecca Snyder. Four years later, in January, 1832, he came to Ohio and located at Columbus, where in the April following his son Arthur was born. Possessed of the pioneering instinct he sought possession of new lands and two years later, in 1834, established his home in the wilderness in the vicinity of where the next year (1835) the village of St. Johns was laid out on the site of the old Indian village, his

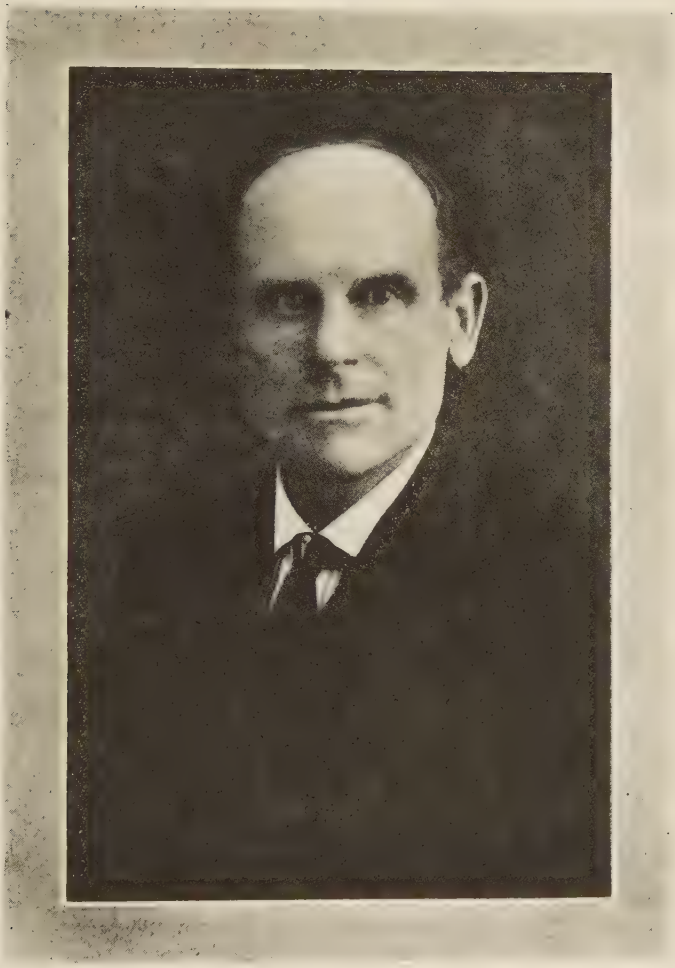
brother, Daniel Bitler, being one of the founders of that town. In 1847 William Bitler was appointed to the position of mail agent for the route traversing this section and down through Logan county and he maintained that position until 1872. In the meantime, in 1869, he opened a tavern at St. Johns, which for years known as the Bitler House was one of the most popular hostelries in this part of the state, and he continued proprietor of this place until his death on July 13, 1889. William Bitler was twice married. His first wife (Rebecca Snyder) died in August, 1857, and in February, 1865, he married Rosa A. Bechdolt. By his first union he was the father of three sons and six daughters, Christian. Arthur, Samuel, Mary, Hannah, Lucy, Elmira, Elizabeth and Mahala, and by his second union had two daughters, Aurora Belle and Dora May. As noted above, Arthur Bitler was but two years of age when he came here with his parents in 1834 and he grew up amid pioneer conditions. As is set out in the Williamson review (1905) he "attended the pioneer school of that place (St. Johns) and in that humble institution of learning laid the foundations of a sound education. By a close application to the study of mathematics and the other common branches, he gradually drifted into the profession of teaching. As a teacher of arithmetic he had no superior among the teachers of that time, and we also may add that he has but few equals in the county in that branch at the present time." Arthur Bitler married and made his home on a farm which he had bought in Clay township until after his election to the office of county treasurer in 1864, when he moved to Wapakoneta, where he ever afterward made his home and where his last days were spent. By re-election he served in the county treasurer's office until 1870 and upon the completion of this term of public service traded his farm for a mill and grain elevator at Wapakoneta and also established a pork-packing industry there, and was thus engaged in business at that place until 1881, when he disposed of his grain business and became engaged as a contractor and the later years of his life were spent as a lightning-rod salesman. Mr. Bitler ever maintained his interest in educational affairs and for years was kept on the local board of education, during the most of this time being the treasurer of the board. He died on December 21, 1914, and at his passing left a good memory, for in many ways he had been a helpful factor in the good works of the community. Arthur Bitler was twice married, his first wife having been Margaret Baughman, who died on May 20, 1863. To that union five children were born, of whom but two survive, the subject of this sketch and his sister Delilah (Mrs. A. W. Klipfel). Following the death of the mother of these children, Arthur Bitler married Elizabeth Davis, who died in the spring of 1884. To that union six children were born, four of whom grew to maturity. William Bitler was about six years of age when his father moved from the farm to

enter upon the duties of the county treasurer's office at Wapakoneta and he ever since has been a resident of that city. He was graduated from the Wapakoneta high school in 1875 and then entered the office at his father's grain elevator, there acquiring a thorough familiarity with all details of a business in which he ever since has been engaged. In 1896 he formed a partnership with Philip Jacobs in this business, which he meanwhile had taken over from his father upon the latter's retirement, and this partnership continued for six years, or until 1902, when Jacob Hauss bought the Jacobs interest and the business has since been carried on under the firm name of Hauss & Bitler, a period of twenty years, one of the best known and most substantial grain firms in this section of the state, the firm's well equipped plant being advantageously situated across the tracks from the B. & O. railway station. Mr. Bitler is a Republican and is affiliated with the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. On November 1, 1877, William Bitler was united in marriage to Minnie L. Moot, who also was born in this county, daughter of Walter and Elizabeth Moot, and to this union twelve children have been born. Of these five are now living, Morris, George, Milo, Susan and Arthur, the latter of whom, a veteran of the World war, married Naomi Blume and is living at Wapakoneta. Morris Bitler married Mamie Brandaugh. George Bitler married Laura Distelrath and has one child, a son, William. Milo Bitler married Tessie Cheasa and has three children, John, Betty and Florence, and Susan Bitler married Albert Miller and has two children, Louise and Mary. Both Morris and George Bitler are veterans of the Spanish-American war and Arthur Bitler was a soldier in the National army during the time of America's participation in the World war, serving in the light artillery overseas.

GUSTAV A. WINTZER, dealer in furs and hides at Wapakoneta, proprietor of an old established business in that line off Blackhoof street along the river, was born at Wapakoneta on August 16, 1862, and is a son of Charles and Catherine (Freyman) Wintzer, the latter of whom was a member of one of the pioneer families of this county. The late Charles Wintzer was an European by birth, born in Prussia, where he remained until he was sixteen years of age, when he came to America, presently coming on out into Ohio and locating at Wapakoneta, where he became employed in the tannery at that place. In time he established a tannery of his own and engaged in the general fur and hide trade, which he kept up until his death in 1916, during the many years of his connection with this business coming to be known as one of the leaders in that line in western Ohio. He and his wife were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Caroline and Catherine. Reared at Wapakoneta, where he was born, Gustav A. Wintzer received his schooling in the

schools of that city and early became connected with his father's business, learning there not only the details of operation in the tannery but becoming skilled in estimating and judging the value of furs and hides. When the tannery was abandoned he continued to give his attention to the buying and selling of furs and hides and has since remained in that business, which he took over after the death of his father and is recognized as one of the leading hide brokers in this section. Mr. Wintzer is a Democrat, a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and he and his wife are members of St. Paul's Evangelical church. Mr. Wintzer has been twice married. In 1891 he was united in marriage to Emma D. Stone, of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, who died in 1905 leaving three children, Ruby, Carl and Norma. In 1906 Mr. Wintzer married Ida Frische, of Wapakoneta, and to this union two children have been born, Mary and Anna. Carl Wintzer married Edith Link and lives at Wapakoneta. The Wintzers have a pleasant home at 605 West Auglaize street.

JERRY DIETRICH, who for more than twenty years has been engaged in the business of shipping eggs out of New Bremen and who for years before becoming engaged in business there on his own account had been a buyer for the creamery, thus acquiring a wide acquaintance throughout the country, was born at New Bremen and has lived there all his life, thus having witnessed the development of that community during the past fifty years. Mr. Dietrich was born on November 2, 1867, and is a son of John and Anna (Schaunbaum) Dietrich, both of whom were born in Germany but who were married after their arrival in this country. John Dietrich came to America in the days of his young manhood and presently located at New Bremen, where he became engaged working on the canal and where he established his home after his marriage. He died in the middle '70s and his son Jerry was thus pretty early thrown largely upon his own resources for a livelihood. After his course in the New Bremen schools Jerry Dietrich began working in the old Messlo hotel at that place and a year later was offered a similar position in the hotel at Ft. Recovery. He accepted this position and remained at Ft. Recovery about a year, at the end of which time he returned to New Bremen and in 1884 began to work for Louis Huenke, who at that time was developing the business which later grew into the White Mountain Creamery Company. For about twenty years Mr. Dietrich remained with the Huenke creamery, buying cream and eggs throughout this region, and then concluded to start in business for himself. He abandoned the cream end of the business and started in buying eggs throughout the countryside, his long experience in that line giving him an advantage that led to the early development of an excellent business, and he has ever since been thus engaged, shipping his eggs to the East. Mr. Dietrich has an admir-



JERRY DIETRICH

able plant at New Bremen for the proper operation of his business and ships between 7,000 and 8,000 cases of eggs annually, for years having been recognized as one of the leading shippers along this line in western Ohio. In his political views Mr. Dietrich is "independent." He and his wife are members of the St. Paul's Lutheran church and take an interested part in church work. Mr. Dietrich married Dorothy Nolte, daughter of Henry Nolte, and has four children, Marvin, Marcella, Ralph and James.

C. P. GRESS a well known dealer in coal and builders supplies at New Bremen and formerly and for many years freight and express agent at that place, was born at New Bremen and has resided there all his life. Mr. Gress was born on April 15, 1861, and is a son of Philip and Mary (Fishback) Gress, whose last days were spent at New Bremen. The late Philip Gress, a veteran of the Civil War, was an European by birth and was but a lad when he came to the United States and located at Cincinnati, where he presently became engaged, working at the carpenter's trade, later coming up into this part of the state and settling at New Bremen, where he was living when the Civil War broke out. On September 1, 1861, he enlisted his services in behalf of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company C, of the 37th Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving with this command until on February 18, 1862, when he received his discharge on account of physical disability and returned to New Bremen. He resumed his labors as a carpenter and continued thus engaged until his death in 1870. To him and his wife three children were born, two of whom, the subject of this sketch and his brother, Peter Gress, survive. C. P. Gress was not ten years of age when he was bereft of a father's support and he early was thrown much on his own resources for a livelihood. He attended school at New Bremen and when yet but a lad secured employment as a clerk in the postoffice, later taking a position as a clerk in a grocery store, where he worked until he was twenty years of age or in 1881, when he began working in the local offices of the Lake Erie & Western railway at New Bremen, where he not only learned telegraphy but the details of the freight and express business and presently was made day telegraph operator and freight and express agent. After he had been thus employed for a number of years he started a coal yard and carried on this latter business in addition to his railway work. After twenty-eight years of continuous service with the railway company, Mr. Gress resigned his position at the railway station and has since then devoted his whole attention to his growing coal business, at the same time developing a growing business in the way of builders supplies and has built up an excellent trade in that line. He is a Democrat and has rendered civic service as township clerk, as city clerk and as clerk of the board of public affairs at New Bremen.

In 1882, C. P. Gress was united in marriage to Minnie Schwede, daughter of John Schwede, and to this union three daughters have been born, Lilly, Edna and Helen, the latter of whom married Richard Jacobs and has one child, a son, Warren Charles Jacobs. Mr. and Mrs. Gress are members of the St. Paul's Lutheran church.

OTTO BUCHANAN, a member of the Waponeta city council and well known as a dealer in real estate in that city, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families of the county, and has lived here all his life. Mr. Buchanan was born on a farm in the northeastern part of Duchouquet township on July 18, 1865, and is a son of John H. and Eliza J. (Weaver) Buchanan, both members of old families in that section. The late John H. Buchanan was born on a pioneer farm in the northwest corner of section 1 of Duchouquet township, in what then was in Allen county, in 1839, and was a son of James and Margaret Buchanan, who had settled there the year before. James Buchanan had come to this region in 1838, and had bought an "eighty" in the woods about three miles north of the river in Duchouquet township, where he established his home. He cleared the place, made a good farm out of it and there spent the remainder of his life, living to a ripe old age, his death occurring on March 10, 1881. John H. Buchanan grew up on that pioneer farm and his schooling was received in the old log school house in district No. 3. From the days of his boyhood he was helpful in the labors of developing the home farm and after his marriage bought an eighty adjoining his father's place and there lived for fifteen years, at the end of which time he moved to another farm of eighty acres in that same township and on this latter place spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there on August 23, 1915. To him and his wife were born eight children, six of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Della and Christina, and three brothers, George, Edward and Silas Buchanan. Reared on the home farm in Duchouquet township, Otto Buchanan received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained at home until after his marriage at the age of twenty-two years, when he rented an "eighty" from his father and began farming on his own account. Two years later he bought that place and there continued actively engaged in farming, with the exception of four years spent in the livery business at St. Marys, until his retirement on May 4, 1916, when he traded his farm for a piece of town property and moved to Wapakoneta, where he since has resided and where he and his family are very comfortably situated, in a pleasant home at 9 South Water street. Upon moving to town Mr. Buchanan established himself in the real estate business and has done well in that line, having come to be recognized as one of the leading realty dealers in the city. He is a Republican and is now serving his second term

as a member of the city council from the Second ward. In his fraternal affiliations he is connected with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta and with Uniopolis Lodge No. 585 of the Knights of Pythias, having become a member of this latter lodge during the time of his residence on the farm. On January 14, 1888, Otto Buchanan was united in marriage to Ella Frazier, also of Duchouquet township, and to this union five children have been born, two of whom—John and Mamie—are deceased, the others being Flora, who married Frank Sheipline, of Union township, and has one child, a daughter, Edna; Lulu, who married Ardie Blank, of Uniopolis, and has two sons, Howard and Herbert, and Lilly, who married Lawrence Miller (now divorced) and has one child, a son, Robert. Mrs. Buchanan is a daughter of Thomas and Minerva (Spees) Frazier, the latter of whom is a member of one of the old families of Union township. Thomas Frazier, a veteran of the Civil War, was born on November 8, 1844, in Pickaway county, this state, and was but a boy when he came to this county with his parents, the family settling at Uniopolis. He rendered service as a soldier of the Union during the time of the Civil war and after his marriage established his home on a farm of seventy acres in Duchouquet township, where he is still living.

M. H. BRIGGS, D. C., of New Bremen, one of the best known chiropractic practitioners in this part of the state, a veteran of the World war with an overseas record and a member of the Ohio Chiropractic Association, was born at Lima, this state, and is a son of William R. and Lottie Briggs, who not long after his birth moved from Lima to Spencerville. It was thus that M. H. Briggs was reared at Spencerville, where he received his schooling and grew to manhood. At the time of the flurry on the Mexican border in 1916 he was a member of the company at that place of the Ohio National Guard, attached to the 2d regiment, and with that command was federalized and sent to the border, remaining there until the flurry was over. When in the spring of the next year this country took a hand in the World war this regiment again was federalized and attached to the National army, Doctor Briggs entering the Federal service in July, 1917, at Camp Sheridan, in Alabama, where the unit to which he was assigned became attached to the 147th Infantry, with which he went overseas in June, 1918. With this command he saw much active service, including the Argonne drive and the battle of St. Mihiel, his particular service having been rendered in connection with the field hospital of the 147th in France and Belgium. Following the armistice this command was stationed in Belgium and an order to return did not come until in March, 1919. The Doctor received his discharge in April, 1919, and returned home, but not long afterward reentered the National College of Chiropractic at Chicago and in October, 1920, was

graduated from that institution. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Briggs returned to Ohio and in April, 1921, opened an office for the practice of his profession at New Bremen and has since been located there, where he is very pleasantly situated and where he is doing well. The Doctor is a member of the Chiropractic Research Society, a member of the Ohio Chiropractic Association and is affiliated with the college fraternity Sigma Phi Kappa. Doctor Briggs married Selma Speckman, daughter of John Speckman. He purchased a building on South Washington street and remodeled the same along modern lines, this rearrangement giving him splendidly appointed reception rooms and operating rooms.

ED TRAU, general manager of the plant of the New Wapakoneta Wheel Company at Wapakoneta and president of the city school board, was born at Wapakoneta and has resided there all his life. His attention has been devoted to the activities of the wheel works since the days of his boyhood, when he started in there as a laborer, and by dint of thoughtful consideration of the needs of the plant and close application to the duties of the various positions he has filled in the plant on his way up, worked his way up to the position of general manager of what has long been regarded as one of the leading industries in this section of Ohio. Mr. Trau was born at Wapakoneta on October 27, 1873, and is the only son of Frank and Mary (Cupp) Trau, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. Frank Trau, a veteran of the Civil war, was a native of Germany and grew to manhood in the old country. As a young man he decided to come to this country and upon his arrival made his way out to this section of Ohio, locating at Wapakoneta. The Civil war then was in progress and it was not long until he had become so thoroughly imbued with the righteousness of the cause of the Union that he enlisted his services in that behalf and went to the front with the company that was made up in this county. With that gallant command he served until the close of the war. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Trau returned to Wapakoneta and after his marriage there not long afterward established his home there. Unhappily, due to the exposure and privations incident to army service, he developed consumption not long afterward and died in 1877, he then being but thirty-two years of age, leaving his widow with three children, the one son—the subject of this sketch—and two daughters, Rosa, who married Charles Manon, and Lena, who married Jacob Stoll. Bereaved of a father's care when but four years of age, Ed Trau was early thrown pretty largely upon his own resources to gain a livelihood. He kept in school, however, until he had completed the local course, and then began to work in the plant of the old Wapakoneta Bending Company, his first task there being that of piling spokes.

ED TRAU

It was there that he acquired his liking for the woodworking industries. A year later he transferred his services to the plant of the old wheel company which had been established at Wapakoneta in 1870, starting to work there as a laborer. He set himself to learn every department of that business and was gradually passed from one department to another, going forward all the time, until in time he was transferred to the office and when in 1910 the company was reorganized as the New Wapakoneta Wheel Company he was made general manager of the concern. It was thus under the management of Mr. Trau that the plant of this important industry was reconstructed and modernized, the factory being rebuilt until it now covers 102,000 feet of floor space and is equipped with a complete outfit of up-to-date machinery for the most expeditious and efficient production. The products of the Wapakoneta wheel works are known wherever good vehicular wheels are used and the market of this concern is not confined to this country, where its products have long been popular, but finds a considerable outlet in the export trade, Wapakoneta wheels long ago having established their standard of excellence. Mr. Trau is a Republican and has for years been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in this county. He has ever given his earnest attention to local educational interests and is now serving as president of the Wapakoneta city school board. He is a Scottish Rite (32°) Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with the consistory and the shrine at Dayton, and also is a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta, while he and his wife are members of the English Lutheran church. On November 15, 1892, Ed Trau was united in marriage to Lulu B. Kantner, daughter of Isaac and Julia Kantner, and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Carl and Florence, the latter of whom is the wife of William Rabe, a veteran of the World war, a lieutenant with a record of overseas service.

ARTHUR R. BOYCE, foreman of the railway shops of the Toledo & Ohio Central Railroad Company at St. Marys and one of the best known residents of that city, has had his home there since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Boyce was born at Whitehouse in Lucas county, Ohio, September 17, 1877, and is a son of Charles and Fannie (Lehman) Boyce. Charles Boyce was born in Lancashire, one of the largest and most populous counties in England, and was there reared, passing through a thorough apprenticeship as a stone mason. As a young man he came to America and located first at Hummelstown, Pa., where he followed his trade for some time and then came over into Ohio and settled at Whitehouse, in Lucas county, where he established his home and continued working as a stone

mason until his death in 1881. He and his wife were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Charles A. and Albert B. Boyce. Arthur R. Boyce was but three years old when his father died. He had his schooling at Whitehouse, and then, when fifteen years of age, in 1892, began to make his home with his uncle, F. B. Long, at St. Marys, taking employment in one of the carriage factories there. Not long afterward he became engaged with his uncle in the coal business and continued thus until he was twenty-one years of age, when (in 1898) he took employment as a car inspector on the Nickle Plate railroad at Ft. Wayne, Ind. Three years later, in 1901, he transferred his connection to the T. & O. C. railroad as car inspector at the terminal and shops of that road at St. Marys and was thus engaged for five years, or until 1906, when he was promoted to the position of foreman of the company's shop at St. Marys and has since been thus engaged. Mr. Boyce is a Republican and has long taken an earnest part in local civic affairs. For four years he served as a member of the St. Marys city council and for two years thereafter as clerk of council and in the campaign of 1922 was a candidate for committeeman from the Third ward. He is a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the local council, Royal and Select Masters, and is also an Odd Fellow, having attained to the encampment degree of that order, and a member of the local lodge of the Woodmen of the World. In January, 1899, Arthur R. Boyce was united in marriage to Agnes Crone, who was born at St. Marys, daughter of Andrew and Josephine (Mecklenburg) Crone, of that city, and to this union five children have been born, Roland A., Eugene L., Leona F., Arthur L. and Emmet D., all of whom are at home. The Boyces have a very pleasant home at 142 West South street.

FREDERICK W. BUTHKER, popular florist at Wapakoneta and proprietor, with his brother, of an admirably equipped green house on West Pearl street, the same being operated under the firm name of Buthker Bros., has not been a resident of Wapakoneta for many years, but during the time of his residence here has become firmly established in his line and is recognized as one of the leading young florists in this part of the state. Mr. Buthker is a native of Holland, born at Bussen in that country on December 10, 1895, and is a son of Arend and Petionella (Zieren) Buthker, both natives of that country and the latter of whom died there in 1906. Reared in his native land, Frederick W. Buthker was carefully trained there in gardening and floriculture. When nineteen years of age he came to this country and after a little prospecting located at Wapakoneta, where presently in association with his brother, Herman, who came to this country some time previously, he became engaged in floriculture at that place and the present extensive green house of his firm has grown out of that venture, for they made the business a success

from the very start. Mr. Buthker is a Democrat, is a member of the local lodges of the Free and Accepted Masons and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. In 1921, Frederick W. Buthker was united in marriage to Norma G. Fisher, a member of one of the old families of this county, daughter of Joseph and Gertrude (Neiss) Fisher, of Wapakoneta, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Frederick J. The Buthkers have a pleasant home adjoining the green house on West Pearl street. Herman Buthker married Bernadine Bailey, a daughter of Joshua and Mary (Fisher) Bailey.

FRED C. SCHAUB, former city treasurer, formerly and for years engaged in the barber business at Wapakoneta and now in business there as a life insurance underwriter, one of the best known men in that line in the county, was born at Wapakoneta and has lived there all his life. Mr. Schaub was born on January 14, 1881, and is a son of John and Catherine (Scherer) Schaub, both of whom also were born in this county. John Schaub was born at Wapakoneta, where he grew to manhood and was married, and subsequently became engaged in business. Of the five children born to him and his wife, all are living save John, who died in 1908, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Louise, and two brothers, Henry and Otto Schaub. Reared at Wapakoneta, Fred C. Schaub received his schooling in the local schools and early began to "look after himself," starting in after school days to learn the barber trade. After he had become familiar with the details of this business he started a barber shop of his own in Wapakoneta and for fourteen years thereafter was thus engaged. He then closed out this business and has since been engaged in the life insurance line, local agent for the State Mutual Life Insurance Company of Massachusetts and the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, and has done well. He also gives considerable attention to the management of a 180-acre farm owned by his wife in this country. Mr. Schaub is a Democrat and has long given his attention to local political affairs. In 1918, he was elected treasurer of the city of Wapakoneta and served one term in that responsible public office. He is a member of the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles and he and his wife are members of the Country Club and of the Evangelical church. On November 28, 1906, Fred C. Schaub was united in marriage to Lura Fisher, who also was born in this county, daughter of Andrew F. and Margaret (Mowrey) Fisher, and to this union two children have been born, Margaret, who is in high school, and Robert. The Schaubs have a very pleasant home on South Blackhoof street.

GREGOR L. FOOS, vice president of the Zofkie-Foos Company, clothiers and men's furnishings at Wapakoneta, president of the Wapakoneta Outing Club and for years recognized as one of the active figures in the business and social life of the county seat town, was born at Wapakoneta and has lived there all his life, engaged in commercial activities since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Foos was born on January 22, 1872, and is a son of Michael and Louise (Stemler) Foos, the latter of whom was born in Hocking county, Pennsylvania. Michael Foos was born in Germany, where he remained until he had attained his majority when he came to this country and not long afterward located at Wapakoneta, where he became engaged as a section hand on what is now the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, then under the management of the old Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad Company. While serving in this capacity on a foggy morning, September 25, 1885, the handcar on which he was making an inspection of the track was struck by the locomotive of a freight train and he was killed. His widow survived him for nearly thirty years, her death occurring on February 2, 1915, and she is buried in St. Joseph's cemetery at Wapakoneta. Michael Foos and his wife were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were eight of these children, of whom but two are now living, Mr. Foos having a sister, Mrs. George Lear, of Wapakoneta.

Gregor L. Foos was but thirteen years of age when his father met his untimely end on the railroad and he thus early began to make his own way in the world. He received his schooling in St. Joseph's parochial school and after leaving school began working in the Weimert cigar factory, where he remained about eighteen months or long enough to become convinced that this work was not to his liking and he then got a job in the Weber grocery store, where he remained a year, at the end of which time he transferred his services to the Timmermeister store, where he remained for sixteen years, there becoming thoroughly acquainted with the details of the goods business. After this long period of service in the Timmermeister store Mr. Foos became engaged in business for himself, opening a men's furnishing store in the Moser building and there, on February 13, 1904, formed a partnership with Frank J. Zofkie, who shortly before had rented a part of the room to be occupied as a tailor shop. This combination proved so satisfactory and effective that about a year later, in January, 1905, the Zofkie-Foos firm bought the Schubert & Levy clothing stock which was being carried in the room on Auglaize street now occupied by the firm, moved their stock in with the other and have since then being doing business at that number, one of the best established commercial firms on the street. In this same year (1905) Henry F. Woehler, who had had years of previous

GREGOR L. FOOS

experience as a clothing salesman in the Timmermeister store, was admitted to partnership in the Zofkie-Foos firm and in 1919 the firm was further strengthened when Mr. Zofkie's son, Cletus C. Zofkie, was admitted to partnership in the concern, the present officers of which are as follows: President and manager, Frank J. Zofkie; vice president and buyer of furnishings, Gregor L. Foos; secretary and treasurer, Henry F. Woehler, the directorate of the company being made up of these members of the firm and Alma K. Foos and Cletus C. Zofkie. Further details regarding the development of this business are set out in a biographical sketch of Mr. Zofkie, president of the company, elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Foos is on his third term as grand knight of the local lodge of the Knights of Columbus at Wapakoneta and has attained to the fourth degree in that order. He was one of the organizers of the local lodge (No. 1011) of the Loyal Order of Moose and for three years was dictator of that lodge, which at the expiration of his term of service had a membership of 400. Upon leaving office he was elected a life member of the lodge and later was elected great north moose of Buckeye Legion, No. 104, L. O. O. M., with jurisdiction throughout seven counties hereabout, and is also an honorary member of Mecca Legion, No. 18, L. O. O. M., at Ft. Wayne, Ind. Other lodge affiliations of Mr. Foos include membership in the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. He also is the president of the popular Wapakoneta Outing Club and was recently elected president of the new Wapakoneta Gun Club. In his political views Mr. Foos is a Democrat and he and his wife and daughter are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church. On June 9, 1905, the year following his entrance into the business life of Wapakoneta on his own account, Gregor L. Foos was united in marriage to Alma K. Euring, daughter of John and Anna Euring, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Kathryn Louise, born on March 20, 1907, whose early schooling was received in St. Joseph's parochial school and who is now a member of the class of 1925, Blume high school. Mrs. Foos was born at Cincinnati, but was reared and educated at Piqua.

JOHN H. SPECKMAN, president of the Arcade Department Store Company, of New Bremen, and for years recognized as one of the leading merchants of that city, was born at New Bremen and has lived there all his life. Mr. Speckman was born on January 8, 1867, and is a son of Frederick and Elizabeth Speckman, both of whom were natives of Germany, but had been residents of this country since the days of their childhood and who, in their generation, were among the best known and most influential citizens of New Bremen. The late Frederick Speckman, who for many years was one of the leading business men of New Bremen, having become

engaged in business there in the '50s of the past century, in the days when the operation of the canal made New Bremen one of the liveliest towns in western Ohio, was but seventeen years of age when he came to this country. After a short residence at Cincinnati he came on up into this part of the state and located at New Bremen, where after his marriage he established his home. He had been trained to the cooper's trade and not long after locating at New Bremen started a cooper shop there, which up to the time of the close of the Civil war did a great business and furnished an outlet for the great quantities of hoop poles which in those days of the big timber provided a ready source of revenue for the farmers on the timber lands for miles about the place and also provided a market for the products of the big stave factory that was in operation there. In 1852, F. L. Nieter bought an interest in this cooperage business, the firm continuing under the name of Speckman & Nieter. In April, 1864, Mr. Speckman and Mr. Nieter started a grocery store, which they presently enlarged to include a general line of goods suitable to the trade and at the same time carried on a lucrative private banking business. As was common with grocery stores in those days they also carried on a saloon business and as another side line were engaged as auctioneers and criers of farm sales, as need arose in the community, it being written of them in one of the old chronicles that they were "the only men in that locality who were first class auctioneers." In 1876, Mr. Speckman took his elder son, Frederick B. Speckman, into the business, establishing him in the dry goods and clothing line in the room adjacent to the corner grocery. A crayon drawing executed in the late '70s preserves a graphic picture of this old grocery corner, showing to advantage the square two-story brick building with its two double-door entrances and a frame barber shop next door. Over the entrance to the corner room, in front of which are stacked a number of kegs symbolic of the "wet" character of certain of the goods there kept for sale, is the firm name of Speckman & Nieter and the legend, "Groceries, Liquors, Etc." Over the door of the adjoining sales room is the firm name Speckman & Son and the legend, "Dry Goods, Boots, Shoes, Hats & Caps." A lamp post stands at the corner curb and four hitching posts are in front of the double store, at one of which posts there is standing a spirited looking saddle horse. An ornate barber pole stands in front of the adjacent barber shop. A light wagon to which is hitched a single horse driven by a gentleman well bewhiskered is being driven down the street in front of the store, while across the street there is a corner pump from which another gentleman even more liberally bewhiskered is watering a horse. From a hook extending from the entrance to the dry goods store there is hanging a coat to

attract attention of passersby to the stock within. In 1881, Mr. Nieter became a partner in the general goods business as well as in the grocery and the firm name then became Speckman, Son & Co., this firm in addition to this general mercantile business also carrying on an extensive trade in grain and pork and held besides some valuable real estate, both in farm lands and town property. Mr. Nieter presently introduced his son, William Nieter, into the firm and Mr. Speckman introduced another of his sons into the combination, John H. Speckman, thus coming into the firm, which then became known as the Speckman & Nieter Company, into which, upon the retirement of the senior members and founders of the business, John Goll bought an interest. That was in 1890, when the firm name was changed, being made to read Speckman, Goll & Co., the members of the firm then being Frederick B. Speckman, John H. Speckman, William Nieter and John Goll. Upon the death of Mr. Goll three years later the sign again changed, this time reading Speckman & Nieter Co., which combination continued for another three years or until the organization of the Arcade Department Store Company of New Bremen, under which firm style the growing business has ever since been conducted, with John H. Speckman as the president of the company. His brother, Frederick B. Speckman, who was for so long connected with the business, died some years ago. Of the six children born to the elder Frederick Speckman (founder of the business) and his wife, but three now survive, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Caroline, wife of Henry Jaeger, and Alvina, wife of Fred Reiher. John H. Speckman has been connected with the store ever since the days of his boyhood, having practically grown up in the business, to which ever since he completed his schooling he has devoted his most earnest attention. When the company now operating the store was organized he was elected president of the same and in 1917 was re-elected. From its "day of small things" this store has grown to a frontage of 115 feet, eighty-five feet back, two floors and a basement, and covers a floor space of 17,550 feet, an unusually well equipped and outfitted department store for a town the size of New Bremen. John H. Speckman has been twice married and by his first wife, who was Marie Cardot, has one child, a daughter, Ethel. Upon the death of the mother of this child. Mr. Speckman married Lizzie Watermann and to this union five children have been born, Lloyd, Selma (wife of Dr. M. H. Briggs, of New Bremen), Roma, Leola and Louis. Mr. and Mrs. Speckman are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and Mr. Speckman has served as secretary of the congregation. He is a Republican and is a charter member and a past chancellor commander of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen.

HERMAN HEINFELD, president of the Heinfeld Manufacturing Company of New Bremen and one of the best known men in that part of the county, is a member of one of the real pioneer families hereabout. Mr. Heinfeld was born on a pioneer farm in German township on March 2, 1845, in the days when that township was attached to Mercer county, and is a son of Arnold and Margaret (Wiemeyer) Heinfeld, both of whom were born in Germany, but who had come to this country when they were youngsters and whose last days were spent in this county. Arnold Heinfeld was but fifteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family first locating in Cincinnati and then, not long after the establishment of the New Bremen colony in what is now Auglaize county, had come up into this part of the state and settled there. For some time after coming here Arnold Heinfeld worked as a wood cutter in the big timber and then when the construction of the canal began took employment on that construction work, earning a sufficient sum of money to gratify his ambition to become a landowner. He bought a small farm in German township, in section 3, just east of where the railroad later was put through, and there established his home, becoming a well-to-do farmer and living to a ripe old age. To Arnold Heinfeld and wife were born seven children, five of whom grew to maturity, those besides the subject of this sketch having been Henry, George, Katherine and May. Herman Heinfeld was reared on that pioneer farm and received his schooling in the old district school north of New Bremen. He remained on the farm until he was eighteen years of age and then entered the industrial field in the village, beginning work there in the cooper shop. Not long afterward he took up work in the saw mill at Lock 3, and after working there awhile began as a carpenter, his inclination toward the woodworking trades persisting. Before he had been working as a carpenter for six months he met with an accident that injured one of his legs in such a fashion that he had to give up that sort of work and then he took up cabinet making, a trade which he quickly learned, and two years later opened a cabinet shop of his own, for inside finishing work and undertaking, making his coffins by hand, and also entered the field as a general building contractor. In 1873 he added to his shop an equipment for general furniture manufacturing and it was while thus engaged that he turned out much of the fine hand-made furniture that still is in use in that community and which will be good for generations to come. In 1878 he gave up the furniture line and began to give his whole attention to his contracting business, the stability of his work as a builder having thoroughly established him in the community. In this connection he found it necessary to put up a lumber mill and in time added to that a general plumbing establishment, this business gradually

developing into the present extensive Heinfeld Manufacturing Company, of which Mr. Heinfeld has continued to act as president since its inception. In 1894 the old Heinfeld mill was destroyed by fire and thus gave way for the erection of the present up-to-date and adequate plant. Among the more notable of the edifices erected by Mr. Heinfeld during the long period of his building operations in and about New Bremen are the St. Paul's Lutheran church and the St. Peter s Evangelical church, pictures of both of which are presented in this work and which are regarded as among the best examples of church architecture in this part of the state. Despite the fact that Mr. Heinfeld is now nearing his eightieth year and that he has ever been a pretty busy man, he retains much of the vigor of his more youthful days and continues to take an active interest in the affairs of the company of which he is the head and which has been built up under his capable direction. He is a Republican and at one time and another has served several terms as a member of the town council. He and his wife are members of the St. Peter's Evangelical church, the congregation of which he has served as a member of the board of trustees and also as secretary and for thirty years served as a member of the choir. It was in 1868 that Herman Heinfeld was united in marriage to Elizabeth Brugaman, who also was a member of one of the pioneer families here, and to this union were born seven children, four of whom are still living, these being Edward, Matilda, Lena and Sophia. Edward Heinfeld, who has charge of the plumbing department of the Heinfeld Manufacturing Company's plant, married Emma Dicke and has one child, a son, Hubert. Matilda Heinfeld is th ewife of William Grothaus, also a member of one of the old families here, the history of which family in this section of the state is set out elsewhere in this volume.

CHARLES E. DINE, superintendent of the plant of St. Marys Foundry Company at St. Marys and one of the well known industrial factors of this county, was born at Minster, in this county, March 24, 1894, and is a son of Dr. Colson and Josephine (Herkenhoff) Dine, who are still living at Minster, and the latter of whom is a daughter of Frank and Mary (Gauspohl) Herkenhoff, former well known residents of that place. Dr. Colson Dine was born in Scioto county, this state, and was but a boy when his parents moved from there to Mercer county, where he grew to manhood and received his schooling. He early began to study medicine and upon completing the course in the medical college at Cincinnati opened an office for the practice of his profession at Minster and has since been located there. Doctor and Mrs. Dine have nine children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Lockie, Portia, Mary, Frank, Margaret, Paul, Volunta and Evangeline. Reared at Minster, Charles E. Dine finished the course in the high school there and then spent two years in the Ohio State University, specializing there in forestry.

Upon his return to Minster he entered the plant of the Minster Machine Company's works and was there for four years, securing a broad understanding of machine and foundry practice, and at the end of that time entered upon his present duties as superintendent of the plant of the St. Marys Foundry Company, one of the substantial industries of this part of the state. Mr. Dine is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and he and his wife are members of the Holy Rosary Catholic church. On November 23, 1915, Charles E. Dine was united in marriage to Naomi Hughes, who was born at Jackson Center, in the neighboring county of Shelby, a daughter of Ord and Anna (Pilliod) Hughes, now of Newport, Ohio, and to this union two children have been born, Virginia and William. The Dines have a pleasant home at 119 South Pine street.

CHRISTIAN W. SCHMEHL, president and treasurer of the Boos-Muske Company, manufacturers of oil engines, at St. Marys, and for more than twenty years an influential factor in the industrial life of that city, has been a resident of this county since the days of his infancy. Mr. Schmehl was born at Erie, Pa., March 11, 1859, and is a son of John C. and Louise (Redehase) Schmehl, who later became residents of this county and the latter of whom is now living four miles east of St. Marys at the venerable age of ninety-four years. The late John C. Schmehl was born in Germany and at the age of twenty years came to this country and located at Erie, Pa., where after his marriage he established his home and remained until 1860, when he moved to Ohio with his family and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Moulton, in this county, buying there a tract of eighty acres of uncleared land for $6 the acre. On that place he made his home until his retirement and removal to Wapakoneta, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in 1894. To him and his wife were born fourteen children, four of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Lena and Louise, and a brother, William Schmehl. As will be noted by a comparison of the above dates, Christian W. Schmehl was but a babe in arms when his parents came to Auglaize county and settled on a pioneer farm in the Moulton neighborhood, and it was there that he grew to manhood, receiving his schooling in the Moulton school. The life of the farm did not appeal to him and as a young man he bought a general store at Moulton and was there engaged in business until he was twenty-eight years of age, or in 1887, when he disposed of his store and became employed as a foreman in the plant of the Wapakoneta wheel works, having charge of the finishing department. For two years he was thus employed and then, in 1889, was sent by the wheel works to take charge of that concern's plant at St. Marys and was thus engaged at the latter place when the Crane & MacMahon corporation bought the St. Marys

wheel works and entered upon its program of expansion. At the time of this change Mr. Schmehl was made assistant treasurer of the company and remained with that concern until 1905, when he became engaged in business on his own account at St. Marys, starting a saw mill there. He continued to operate this saw mill until 1920, when he disposed of his plant there and moved into Logan county to saw up an attractive bunch of timber. Upon the completion of that task he returned to St. Marys and in 1921 bought an interest in the Boos Oil Engine Company, manufacturers of oil engines, with an established and growing plant, and was made president and treasurer of the company, which positions he now occupies and in the exercise of which he has done much to extend the company's business. Mr. Schmehl is a Republican. He is a Scottish Rite (32 degree) Mason and is also an Odd Fellow and a member of the local tent of the Knights of Maccabees at St. Marys. In 1879, when living at Moulton, Christian W. Schmehl was united in marriage to Mary Born, of Lancaster, Ohio, and to this union have been born seven children, four of whom, Bertha M., Carl W., a veteran of the World war, Hazel and Irma, are living. Bertha M. Schmehl married Chase M. Rose and is now living at Louisville, Ky. Hazel Schmehl married Cass Shipman and has two children, a daughter, Mary Louise, and a son, Milton. Carl W. Schmehl's service during the recent war was rendered at Ft. Monroe, which he entered as a private and was advanced to the grade of instructor. The Schmehls have a pleasant home at 122 North Ash street.

H. W. RAIRDON, proprietor of the New Bremen garage and a local dealer in grain at that place, one of the old time livery men of Auglaize county and a man widely known throughout this group of counties, is a native "Buckeye" and has been a resident of this state all his life, a resident of New Bremen since the days of his young manhood. Mr. Rairdon was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Logan on December 6, 1867, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Cole) Rairdon, both of whom were born in that same county, members of pioneer families there, the latter a daughter of Stephen and Mary (Glick) Cole. Henry Rairdon, a son of Michael and Elizabeth (Jeffreys) Rairdon, the former of whom was a veteran of the Mexican war, was a farmer and followed that vocation all his life. He and his wife were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch having a brother, H. L. Rairdon, and two sisters, Emma and Bessie. Reared on the home farm in Logan county, H. W. Rairdon received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and remained at home until he "struck out for himself," when he came over into Auglaize county and started a livery stable at New Bremen. For more than twenty years he maintained that business there and then when he recognized that the automobile had

come to stay, did what so many livery stable men over the country have done, met modern conditions and enlarged the capacity of his place to include a garage and equipped his establishment to meet changing conditions of travel. That was in 1914. Two years later he sold his horses and has since devoted his entire attention to the garage and its accompanying lines. Upon opening his garage, Mr. Rairdon secured the local agency for the sale of the Overland car and has since maintained that agency, at the same time handling a complete line of automobile accessories. In 1917, he also became interested in the grain business and has since been engaged in the buying and selling of grain, carrying on this latter line in addition to his garage business, and is doing well. Mr. Rairdon is a Republican and is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen, while he and his wife are members of the Reformed church. Mrs. Rairdon (Lillian Diecker) is a member of one of the old families of Auglaize county, a daughter of Henry and Louise (Greiwe) Diecker.

JAMES P. SMITH, an honored veteran of the Civil war and formerly and for years engaged in the manufacture of carriages at St. Marys, now living retired in that city, where he has made his home for nearly forty years past, is a Hoosier by birth but has been a resident of Ohio since the days of his childhood. Mr. Smith was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Brewersville, in Jennings county, Indiana, April 17, 1842, and is a son of James P. and Eliza (Meserve) Smith, both of whom were born in New York state. The senior James P. Smith was born near Albany, the capital of the state of New York, and was reared there. Shortly after his marriage he came west (in 1841) and settled on a tract of land he bought in Jennings county, Indiana. While living there he became interested in the Ohio river trade and presently bought a packet and moved to Cincinnati, where he made his home while operating this packet in the New Orleans trade, and remained there until 1857, when he bought a tract of land in Illinois, moved to the latter state and there spent the remainder of his life developing that land, his death occurring in 1877. To him and his wife were born eleven children, but two of whom are now living, the subject of this sketch and his sister Ferrisa. The junior James P. Smith was but a child when his parents moved from their Indiana farm to Cincinnati and his schooling was received in the city, where he was living when the Civil war broke out. He was nineteen years of age at that time and he straightway enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company D of the 6th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and with that command served until his honorable discharge in 1862 at Lexington, Ky. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Smith returned to Cincinnati

JAMES P. SMITH

and there became engaged in blacksmithing. In the following year he married and then set up a blacksmith shop of his own and continued to make Cincinnati his place of residence until 1885, when he moved to St. Marys and became employed in the old Bimel carriage factory, which was then at the height of its prosperity. For thirteen years Mr. Smith remained connected with the Bimel plant and then, in 1898, opened a carriage factory of his own at St. Marys and gradually developed there a very good business which he maintained until his retirement from the manufacturing field in 1920, since which time he has been in a position to "take things easy" at his comfortable home in St. Marys. It was on May 5, 1863, at Cincinnati, that James P. Smith was united in marriage to Anna Fitzsimmons, who was born at Oldcastle, Ireland, August 4, 1842, and to this union seven children were born, of whom four are living, two daughters, Abbie and Cora, and two sons, William O. and Richard Smith. Mr. Smith is a Republican and a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at St. Marys, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. The Smiths have a very pleasant home at 229 North Main street and are very comfortably situated. Mrs. Smith was but a child when she came to this country with her parents, James Fitzsimmons and wife, the family landing at New Orleans, where they remained for a while and then located in Cincinnati, where her parents spent the remainder of their lives.

ROSCOE GUY HERRMANN, justice of the peace in and for Duchouquet township, with offices at Wapakoneta; formerly and for years widely known throughout the country as a stage prestidigitator or conjurer, former deputy clerk of Auglaize county, a skilled locksmith and a man of otherwise varied talents, one of the best known citizens of this county, was born at Wapakoneta and has ever regarded that city as his home, though for years his travels took him far afield. Mr. Herrmann was born on August 14, 1879, and is a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Welchans) Herrmann, who, in their generation, were among the well known residents of Wapakoneta. The late Frederick Herrmann was an European by birth, born in Germany, and was but a child when he was brought to this country by his parents, his father settling on a farm in Miami county, this state, and later moving up into the neighboring county of Shelby. It was in this latter county that Frederick Herrmann was well trained as a carpenter, a vocation he followed the remainder of his life. When about twenty-one years of age he located at Wapakoneta and there, after his marriage, established his home. It was thus that as a builder he took an active part in the consummation of the ambitious building program which led to the practical reconstruction of the city of Wapakoneta during the '80s and '90s and many of the chief buildings in the town today bear the marks of his skilled

craftsmanship. To him and his wife were born three children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Nina, and a brother, Charles Herrmann, the latter of whom is now living at Oakland, Calif. Reared at Wapakoneta, the place of his birth, Roscoe Guy Herrmann completed three years of the high school course and then turned his attention practically to the interesting and entertaining diversion which he had been cultivating even from the days of his childhood. It was discovered when he was a child that he had an almost uncanny nimbleness of fingers, coupled with an equal alertness of thought and he had early begun to turn this peculiar dexterity into practical use as a means of effecting parlor diversions in prestidigitation and conjuring—"magic," as it is popularly so called—and long before he was ready to go "on the road" he had become widely known hereabout as a gracefully and effectively skilled "magician" or sleight-of-hand artist. He worked out a repertoire or "bag of tricks" capable of affording a full evening's entertainment and easily obtained stage employment, for some time traveling under the direction of others, but after awhile becoming his own manager, and for fourteen years he followed the stage, during this period giving performances in practically all of the important cities of the country. This amazing dexterity he also turned to practical uses, for with his skill as a prestidigitator he had an equal skill as a practical locksmith and often was being called on to solve the mystery of a recalcitrant combination lock on safes and the like, and it is understood that never did problems thus presented baffle him. Upon his retirement from the stage, Mr. Herrmann "settled down" at his old home at Wapakoneta and for four years thereafter was employed as deputy in the office of the county clerk. He then became engaged as the traveling representative of a concern manufacturing an accounting system and was thus engaged when this country took a hand in the World war. He offered his services as a skilled mechanician and in 1918 was sent to Newport News, Va., where he spent eight months in Government employ. In the election following his return to Wapakoneta, Mr. Herrmann was elected justice of the peace in and for Duchouquet township and he is now serving in that magisterial capacity, with offices in the Gunther building. Though long retired from the stage, Mr. Herrmann continues to maintain his active interest in that department of stage entertainment devoted to the exercise of the art of the "magicians" and retains his membership in the National Conjurers Association, through the deliberations of which body he still keeps in touch with the modern developments along the lines in which through his many years of ceaseless practice he is so adept. In his political views he is a Democrat and in his fraternal relations is affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the

Junior Order of United American Mechanics, the Tribe of Ben Hur and the Modern Woodmen, while he and his wife are members of the English Lutheran church. It was in 1911, about the time of his retirement from the stage, that Mr. Herrmann was united in marriage to Maude Clinch, of this county, and to this union two children have been born, daughters both, Veronica and Ruth. Mr. and Mrs. Herrmann have a pleasant home at 504 Gibbs avenue and have always taken an interested part in the general social affairs of the community.

DR. W. J. STAPPE, president of the town council of New Bremen, a veterinary surgeon, who has been practicing at that place for the past twelve years and more and who also for years has been the local agent throughout that part of the state for the sale of Chevrolet automobiles, one of the best known men thereabout, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has been a resident of this state all his life. Doctor Stappe was born at Delphos, on the line between the neighboring counties of Allen and Van Wert, in 1883, and is a son of Henry H. and Mary (Luebkemann) Stappe, both natives of Germany, the former of whom is still living, making his home with his son, the Doctor, at New Bremen. Doctor Stappe's mother was a daughter of Gerhardt and Charlotte (Meyers) Luebkemann, who upon coming to this country with their family located at Cincinnati, but presently came up into this part of the state and settled on a farm in Auglaize county. Henry H. Stappe came to this country in the days of his young manhood and located at Cincinnati, where he became engaged working at his trade, that of a blacksmith. After his marriage there he came up into this part of the state and located at Spencerville, where he opened a blacksmith shop and where he remained for some years, at the end of which time he moved to Delphos, where he remained until about 1895, when he moved back to Cincinnati and took employment in the blacksmith shops of the Big Four Railroad Company in that city, where he remained until his retirement, following the death of his wife, when—his son, meanwhile, having located at New Bremen—he rejoined the latter here and has since been making his home here. To him and his wife were born five children, four of whom are still living, Doctor Stappe having three sisters, Lottie, Elizabeth and Nora. W. J. Stappe was about ten years of age when his parents returned to Cincinnati from Delphos and his public schooling was completed in the schools of the former city. He then entered the school of pharmacy of Ohio Northern University at Ada and following his graduation from that school became engaged as a pharmacist at Cincinnati, and was thus engaged for about four years. In the meantime his attention was turning to the subject of veterinary surgery and medicine and he presently entered the Cincinnati Veterinary College, from which he was grad-

uated in 1910. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Stappe opened an office for the practice of his profession at New Bremen and has since been located there. In 1913 he acquired the local agency for the sale of the Chevrolet automobile and has since maintained that agency, the field of his operations covering ten townships in this county and in the neighboring counties of Mercer and Shelby. Doctor Stappe has given his earnest attention to local civic affairs since taking up his residence at New Bremen, for six years served as local health officer and is the present (1922) president of the town council. He is an ardent student of Freemasonry, in which he has attained to the Scottish Rite (32d degree) and has also taken the capitular and cryptic degrees, a member of the blue lodge at Carthage, the chapter and council at St. Marys and the consistory at Dayton. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Evangelical church. Doctor Stappe married Wanda Mueller, daughter of Dr. C. L. and Helen (Eppins) Mueller, of Cincinnati, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Vilma.

LEO C. KUHLHORST, a well known egg dealer at New Bremen, and one of the active young business men of that place, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here most of his life, the exception being a period during the days of his young manhood when he was traveling about over the country acquiring a bit of experience that has proved valuable to him in his later business career. Mr. Kuhlhorst was born on a farm on the western edge of the county, in section 7 of German township, April 10, 1886, and is a son of Christ and Minnie (Tottenhorst) Kuhlhorst, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here. The late Christ Kuhlhorst was reared on a farm and following his marriage began farming on his own account, in time becoming the owner of an excellent farm of 154 acres over on the county line three miles west of New Bremen, where he continued actively engaged in farming until his retirement a year or two before his death. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom five are now living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Amanda, Nora and Augusta, and a brother, William Kuhlhorst. Reared on the home farm in German township, Leo C. Kuhlhorst received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and as a young man traveled around quite a bit, engaged at work in various lines, and was thus engaged for several years, at the end of which time he returned home, locating at New Bremen, where he became engaged in driving a sales wagon for the Watkins Remedy Company. For two years he kept up this line and then bought the Merrit egg route that had been successfully established out of New Bremen and has since then been engaged in buying and shipping eggs. Mr. Kuhlhorst has an auto truck in which he makes his rounds through the country hereabout,

LEO C. KUHLHORST

with New Bremen as his headquarters and shipping point, and has developed an excellent business, in season shipping as high as two car loads of eggs a week, and has thus come to be known as one of the most alert and enterprising dealers in this line in this part of the state. In his political views Mr. Kuhlhorst is "independent." He is a member of St. Peter's Evangelical church at New Bremen and a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at that place. He has a well equipped plant for the care of his produce and is doing well.

DR. WALTER B. HORTON, a well known dental surgeon of Auglaize county, who has been practicing his profession at St. Marys for more than twenty years, was born on a farm in Jackson county, this state, September 25, 1874, and is a son of Samuel and Levina J. (Davis) Horton, who are still living in that county. Samuel Horton was born in Jefferson township, Jackson county, and was reared on a farm. After his marriage he became a farmer on his own account and is still thus engaged, the owner of a well improved farm of 100 acres in Jackson county. To him and his wife were born two sons, the subject of this sketch having had a brother, Herbert Horton, who died in Kansas in 1919. Reared on the home farm in Jackson county, Walter B. Horton received his schooling in the local schools and, proving an apt student, was licensed to teach school and at the age of sixteen years taught a term of school in a rural district in the neighborhood of his home. He then took a course in the normal school at Oak Hill and in the National Normal School at Lebanon and for six years thereafter continued engaged as a teacher, meantime giving his attention to preparatory studies along the lines of dental surgery, and in 1896 entered the dental department of Ohio State University, from which he was graduated in 1899. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Horton cast about for a likely place in which to open an office for the practice of the profession to which he had devoted his life and he has never had cause to regret the choice which led him to St. Marys. It was in 1899, the year of his graduation, that Doctor Horton began practicing at St. Marys and he ever since has been thus engaged, one of the best known dental surgeons in western Ohio. On October 7, 1900, the year following his location at St. Marys, Dr. Walter B. Horton was united in marriage to Dora E. Plumer, who also was born in Jackson county, a member of one of the old families there, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Walter B., Jr. Doctor Horton and his family have a pleasant home at 707 West Spring street at St. Marys. They are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and the Doctor is superintendent of the Sunday school. He is a Republican and for two terms served as a member of the local school board, president of the board during one of these terms of service. The Doctor is a mem-

ber of the Ohio State Dental Association and is a Scottish Rite (32d degree) Mason, a Knight Templar and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine and is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias. Mrs. Horton is a daughter of Ephraim and Martha (Russell) Plumer, of Jackson county, the former of whom at one time was county commissioner of that county.

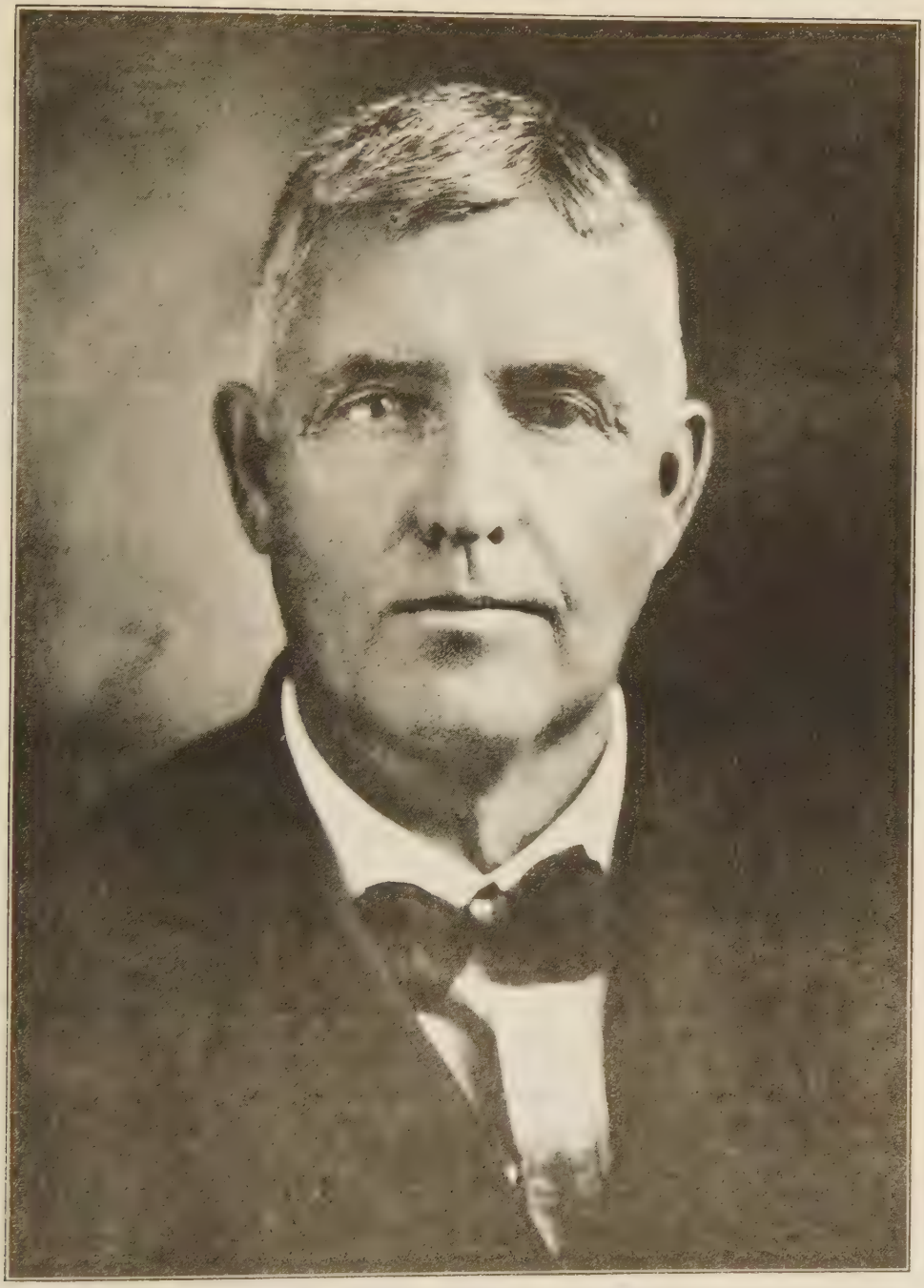
OTIS E. DUNAN, president of the First National Bank of St. Marys, for many years closely identified with the growth and development of that city and long recognized as one of its most enterprising and progressive citizens, was born at St. Marys and has lived there all his life, thus having been identified with all the major movements which have been instrumental in development there along what properly may be called "modern" lines, for he has been connected with the bank of which he is now president since 1877, a date which just about marks the beginning of the period in which this county began definitely to emerge from what sometimes is called the "backwoods" period and to put away pioneer conditions in favor of what since has been known as "modern" methods, a change which of course has resulted in a practical reconstruction not only of the towns and villages of the county but of commercial and industrial methods and has brought about the amazing development which has been witnessed here during the past forty years and more. And in all of this development Mr. Dunan has been an influential factor. Mr. Dunan was born at St. Marys on July 3, 1857, and is a son of Washington and Susan L. (Barrington) Dunan, the latter of whom was a member of one of the real pioneer families of the St. Marys neighborhood and the former of whom had become a resident of St. Marys in 1846, following the opening of canal navigation through that place. They had two sons, Mr. Dunan having a brother, William R. Dunan. Reared at St. Marys, Otis E. Dunan was graduated from the first class that was graduated from the St. Marys high school. That was in 1874. Three years later, 1877, he became employed as a clerk in the old St. Marys Bank, afterward nationalized as the First National Bank of St. Marys, and he ever since has been connected with this substantial financial concern, gradually being advanced as promotions were earned, until in 1907 he was elected president of the bank, the position he now occupies. In addition to his banking interests at St. Marys, Mr. Dunan is a member of the directorate and treasurer of the Union Building and Loan Company of that city, a member of the directorate and vice president of the Minster State Bank of Minster, this county; a member of the directorate and treasurer of the St. Marys Telephone Company and a director of the Peninsular Telephone Company of Tampa, Fla. He is a Republican, a past member of the St. Marys school board and has from time to time been the nominee of the Republican party for

other offices in city and county. On April 25, 1881, Otis E. Dunan was united in marriage to Leah N. Van Riper, who was born in Michigan, a daughter of George and Parthenia (Crowell) Van Riper, and he and his wife have two children, George and Anna L., the latter of whom married Dr. Carey P. Kite, of St. Marys, and has two children, Leah Dunan and Jeannette N. George Dunan married Betsey Crisick and has two children, sons both, George and Otis. The Dunans have a very pleasant home at 510 West South street and have ever been interested and helpful factors in the general social and cultural activities of their home town and of the community at large.

DR. CLEMENS S. HARTMAN, vice-president and general manager of the Hartman Jewelry Company of Wapakoneta, proprietor of an admirably equipped jewelry store there and an optometrist of more than local reputation, was born at Wapakoneta and has resided there all his life save during the period when he was pursuing his technical studies in the East. Mr. Hartman was born on December 17, 1882, and is a son of Henry and Sabina (Goetz) Hartman, both of whom also were born in Wapakoneta, members of pioneer families there, the former born on January 6, 1854, and the latter, September 22, 1860. Henry Hartman, head of the jewelry company, which he founded and which bears his name and who is now engaged in the jewelry business at Salem, Ore., is a son of Otto Hartman and wife, natives of Germany, who had settled at Wapakoneta upon coming to this country and whose last days were spent there. Otto Hartman for years operated a brick kiln at Wapakoneta and was thus one of the live factors in the upbuilding of that town, when it was getting its start back in its village days in the '50s and '60s of the past century. Henry Hartman was reared at Wapakoneta and early became attracted to the jewelry trade, beginning as a boy to acquire the full technical details of this trying commercial line, serving an apprenticeship at Pomeroy, Ohio, and became a skilled silversmith and horologist, or clocksmith. In 1876, when he was twenty-two years of age, he started in business for himself at Wapakoneta and thus in that year founded the establishment which ever since has been maintained under the Hartman name and of which his son, Dr. Clemens S. Hartman, is now the local proprietor and manager. Henry Hartman continued in business at Wapakoneta for years and his three sons were trained along the same line. As they became proficient in their craft he took them into the business, which has since been carried on under the firm style of the Hartman Jewelry Company, and he and his other sons, Otto and Raymond, have been for some years located at Salem, Ore., where they are carrying on the Western branch of the company's business. To Henry Hartman and wife were born four children, besides the three sons there being a daughter, Gertrude. Clemens

S. Hartman was reared at Wapakoneta and from the days of his boyhood has been attentive to the affairs of the jewelry store. Upon completing his local schooling he entered the Philadelphia Optical College and was graduated there with the degree of Doctor of Optometry, thus becoming qualified to carry on a proper optometrical department in connection with his father's jewelry store, and upon his return from college became an active participant in that business. When the Hartman Jewelry Company was organized, in 1906, he was made vice-president of the company and general manager of the business and has so continued, in full charge of the Wapakoneta store, which is admirably equipped and thoroughly stocked. In the line of optometry Doctor Hartman has ever kept abreast with all modern developments looking to the greater perfection of this important profession and by repeated post-graduate courses at Chicago has kept himself informed of these developments as they are brought out, so that his equipment in that direction is always up-to-date. On July 26, 1906, Dr. Clemens S. Hartman was united in marriage to Loretta Neumier, daughter of Andrew and Catherine Neumier, of Wapakoneta, and to this union four children have been born, Dean, Fern, Henry (deceased), and Helen (deceased). Mr. Hartman is a Democrat. He and his wife are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church and he is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and of the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

WILLIAM J. HOWELL, a former member of the board of county commissioners for Auglaize county, former assessor of Duchouquet township, head of the Wapakoneta Cement Block Company and a dealer in coal and general builders supplies, for years one of the active figures in the general industrial life of this community, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the old families here, and has lived here all his life. He was born in Washington township and is a son of Simeon J. and Mary (Renshaw) Howell, the latter of whom was born in Reading, Pa. One of her brothers, Samuel Renshaw, was a soldier of the Union during the Civil war. Her father died when she was a child and her mother later came to Ohio and here married Benjamin Styles. Simeon J. Howell's father, Jefferson Howell, settled in the Olive Branch neighborhood upon coming to Ohio. One of his brothers was a Union soldier during the Civil war. For some time after his marriage Simeon J. Howell made his home on a farm in Washington township, this county, and then moved to Wapakoneta, but later returned to the farm. To Simeon J. Howell and wife were born ten children, those besides the subject of this sketch, the third in order of birth, having been Miss Sarah Howell, a well known teacher in the high school at Wapakoneta, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume; Ollie, de-



WILLIAM J. HOWELL

ceased; Charles, Richard, Edward and Robert Howell, Mrs. Anna Bristow, Mrs. Cora Bowser and Mrs. Jennie Brentlinger. William J. Howell was four years of age when his parents moved to Wapakoneta, his early schooling thus having been received in the schools of that city. When he was twelve years of age the family returned to the farm in Washington township and he grew up on the farm, remaining there until his marriage at the age of twenty-two years, when he began farming on his own account as a renter. He had gained some experience in the building trade and about this time branched out as a building contractor and was thus engaged when in 1902 he was elected to represent his district on the board of county commissioners. By re-election Mr. Howell served in this important public capacity for six years, meantime continuing his operations as a contractor, and for greater convenience moved to Wapakoneta, where he ever since has made his home and where he is very comfortably situated. Upon the completion of his term of public service Mr. Howell became engaged in the manufacture of cement block and has enlarged the plant which he then erected until now he has an equipment competent to "make anything that can be made out of cement," and has developed an extensive business in that line, operating as the Wapakoneta Cement Block Company, which also handles coal and general builders supplies. This company has a twenty-acre gravel pit conveniently located with reference to the plant and its operations are carried on in thoroughly up-to-date fashion, the plant having a capacity of 300 blocks a day. Mr. Howell has for many years taken an earnest and active interest in local civic affairs and in addition to his years of service on the board of county commissioners served for two terms as assessor of Duchouquet township. He is one of the active members of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta and is a member of the board of trustees of that lodge. In July, 1882, William J. Howell was united in marriage to Emma Parrish, who also was born in Washington township, daughter of James E. and Eliza (Wisely) Parrish, and who died in April, 1921. To that union four children were born, Ferdinand, Bessie, Mabel and Ruth, all of whom are married save Mabel, an accountant by vocation and who is at home with her father. Ferdinand Howell, who is engaged in business with his father, married Dora Koh and he and his wife have had five children, all of whom are living save William, who died at the age of five years, the others being Katherine, Evelyn, Donald and Junior. Bessie Howell married Richard Tucker, a veteran of the World war with an overseas record, who is now living at Kenmore, Ohio, where he is engaged as a chemist. Ruth Howell married Raymond Headapohl, also a veteran of the World war with an overseas record, now employed by the Ford Motor Company at Detroit, and has one child, a daughter, Eileen.

WILLIAM H. SCHULER, distributor of the celebrated "Purina" feed stuffs—the well known "checker" brand of general feed for domestic animals—buyer and shipper of hay and proprietor of a general feed store at Wapakoneta, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has been a resident of this state all his life. Mr. Schuler was born in the hamlet of Montra, in the Jackson Center neighborhood in the neighboring county of Shelby, June 5, 1878, and is a son of Adolph and Sophia (Heintz) Schuler, both of whom were born in Germany, but were residents of this country and of Ohio since the days of their childhood, the former having been but three years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family locating in Shelby county, and the latter fifteen years of age. Adolph Schuler grew up in Shelby county and became one of the "old time" saloon keepers of that county, having a place at Montra. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom three are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Mary Bishop, and a brother, Albert Schuler. Reared at Montra, William H. Schuler received his schooling in the schools of that place and when but twelve years of age began "working out" as a farm hand in the neighborhood. When nineteen years of age he became engaged in the saloon business at Geyer, in this county, and about four years later moved to Wapakoneta and there opened a saloon, continuing in business there for about four years or until he was compelled to dispose of his place on account of a severe attack of illness, which laid him up for about six months. Following his recuperation he became engaged in the manufacture of cigars and also opened a restaurant which he operated for several months. He then disposed of the restaurant and three years later he moved his plant to Celina and was engaged in the manufacture of cigars there for about eighteen months, at the end of which time he sold the factory and returned to Wapakoneta, where he operated the old Henry hotel, a hostelry famous in the old days of the county seat, having previously leased the hotel, and at the same time opened a pool room and cigar store on Auglaize street, in the basement of which latter place he presently opened a feed store. It was not long until he recognized that this feed business was going to be a paying proposition and after having had the hotel and pool room about three years closed out that line and has since given his whole attention to the development of his feed business, to which he some time ago added a hay baler and has since been engaged in the buying and selling of hay in connection with the other line. Upon starting in to develop his feed business, Mr. Schuler built the place where he now has his office and small stock room on East Auglaize street, but about five years later was compelled to acquire additional quarters and he then bought the "Old Vet" barn to accomodate his growing necessity for storage quarters.

Not long after getting his feed business well under way or about two years ago, Mr. Schuler added as a general feed for domestic animals the famous "Purina Chow," and he soon found that there was a growing demand for this food, the sale of which has increased, until last year he sold close to forty car loads of it. Mr. Schuler has adopted the checker as his trade mark, this being the national trademark of "Purina" Mills. The front of his store is painted in checkers and the "Purina" feeds are put up in checkerboard bags, while his delivery trucks and other equipment, where possible, also are painted in checker-board fashion. Mr. Schuler is "independent" in his political views and he and his wife are members of St. Mark's Lutheran church. In 1900, William H. Schuler was united in marriage to Mary Accuntius, who was born in this county, daughter of Adam and Caroline (Gross) Accuntius, and to this union ten children have been born, four of whom are living, namely; Gladys, born on December 11, 1902, who was graduated from the Blume high school at Wapakoneta with the class of 1920; Frederick, born in June, 1909; Pauline, born in October, 1912, and Mary L., born in June, 1918.

JOSEPH KLANKE, of the Rabe Manufacturing Company of New Bremen and manager of Department B of that concern's enterprises, has been a resident of New Bremen since the days of his boyhood and has for years been one of the active factors in the commercial life of that energetic community. Mr. Klanke was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Shelby on March 17, 1864, and is a son of Christopher and Anna Klanke, both of whom were born in Germany and the former of whom formerly and for years was engaged in tailoring at New Bremen. As is set out elsewhere in this volume, in the biography relating to William Klanke, elder brother of Joseph Klanke, the late Christopher Klanke came to this country following the unsuccessful political revolution in Germany in 1848, the year of the great immigration from central Europe to this country. He at that time was about twenty-one years of age and had been trained as a tailor. Upon his arrival here he located at Cincinnati and began working there as a tailor, but not long afterward came up into this part of Ohio and settled at New Bremen. Six months later, however, he decided upon farming as a vocation in his new home and settled on a farm down in Shelby county, where he remained for fourteen years or until after the death of his wife, when he returned to New Bremen and resumed his vocation as a tailor and continued thus engaged until his retirement from business some years before his death, which occurred in 1899. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Elizabeth, and two brothers, George and William Klanke. Upon completing his schooling in the New Bremen schools, Joseph Klanke began working in the William

Rabe hardware store at that place and has ever since been connected with this concern, one of the best known merchants in that part of the county. When in 1903 the Rabe interests were consolidated under the firm style of the Rabe Manufacturing Company, Mr. Klanke became a member of the company and was made manager of the company's hardware and grocery store (Department B) and has since had charge of that department, carrying on the business in up-to-date fashion with a carefully selected stock designed to meet all the requirements of the local trade. In his political views Mr. Klanke is an "independent" Democrat. He has long given his attention to local civic affairs and has served two terms as a member of the town council. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church. Mrs. Klanke (Emma Koeper) is a daughter of Henry Koeper.

ALFRED J. FRIEMERING, a substantial grocer at New Bremen and one of the well known and energetic young business men of that place, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life with the exception of a period of some years spent at Dayton. Mr. Friemering was born at Minster on September 28, 1899, and is a son of John Bernard and Anna (Schmiesing) Friemering, the latter of whom was born in that same township. John Bernard Friemering, who is now living retired at Minster, was born there and after his marriage became engaged in farming in that neighborhood, continuing thus engaged until 1906, when he moved to Minster and there became engaged in the hardware and grocery business. He continued this business until 1918, when he sold his store and has since been living retired. To him and his wife were born eight children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Julius, Margaret, Cecelia, Luetta, Alvin, Clarence and Bernard. Alfred J. Friemering was six years of age when his father became engaged in business at Minster and he practically "grew up" in the store, thus early becoming thoroughly acquainted wtih business forms and methods. Upon completing his schooling in the Minster schools he took his place in his father's store and when his father sold out in 1918, went to Dayton and began working in the plant of the National Cash Register Company, where he remained eighteen months, after which he became engaged as the manager of a grocery store in that city, a year later going into the Lowe Bros. paint factory as superintendent of the warehouse, and was thus engaged until in April, 1920, when he and his brother-in-law, Aloys J. Wagner, formed a partnership and bought the Weinberg Bros. grocery store at New Bremen and were partners until September 28, 1922, when Mr. Friemering took over Mr. Wagner's interest. Since taking over this business he has made numerous improvements to the place and has enlarged the stock until now he has an admirably equipped and well stocked grocery, prepared to meet all demands of the local trade. Mr.

ALFRED J. FRIEMERING

Friemering is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster. Mrs. Friemering (Leona Vallo) is a daughter of Clem J. and Josephine (Budde) Vallo and also was reared at Minster.

GRANT SHEARER, a widely known broker of broom corn and the proprietor of a well equipped and prosperous broom factory at New Bremen, where he is engaged in business under the style of the Superior Broom Company, a member of the board of public affairs of that city and in other ways interested in general community development, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of Ohio since the days of his boyhood and of New Bremen for more than twenty years. Mr. Shearer was born in Crawford county, Illinois, December 16, 1868, and is the son of John and Ella (Dye) Shearer, both of whom were born in Ohio, the latter in Miami county, a daughter of Cornelius Dye, and the former in Miami county. The late John Shearer, an honored veteran of the Civil war and a son of Eli Shearer, who came to Ohio from Pennsylvania, grew to manhood and was married in Miami county, where he was living when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of the 8th Ohio Cavalry, with which he served until the close of the war. This command saw much active service and Mr. Shearer was captured by the enemy no fewer than three times. Twice he was able to steal away from his captors. The third time he was placed in the old warehouse at Richmond, Va., known to infamy as Libby prison, and was there kept on starvation rations until finally exchanged. He had been trained as a carpenter and upon the completion of his military service returned to Miami county and became there engaged in carpentering but not long afterward moved to Illinois and settled in Crawford county. Not finding things to his liking there he returned to Miami county after four years of residence in Illinois, and after a while moved to Sidney, where he spent the remainder of his life and where his widow is still living, making her home with her son, John L. Shearer. To John Shearer and wife were born seven children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having three brothers, Perry, George W. and John L. Shearer. Reared in Miami county, for he was but a babe in arms when his parents returned to that county from Illinois, Grant Shearer received his schooling in the schools of that county and until his marriage remained on the home farm, a helpful factor in the development of the same. He then took up broom making and moved to West Milton, in his home county, where he perfected himself in this trade and then went to Circleville. After working for some time at this latter place he moved to New Bremen and was employed in the broom factory there for two years, at the end of which time he moved to Sidney and

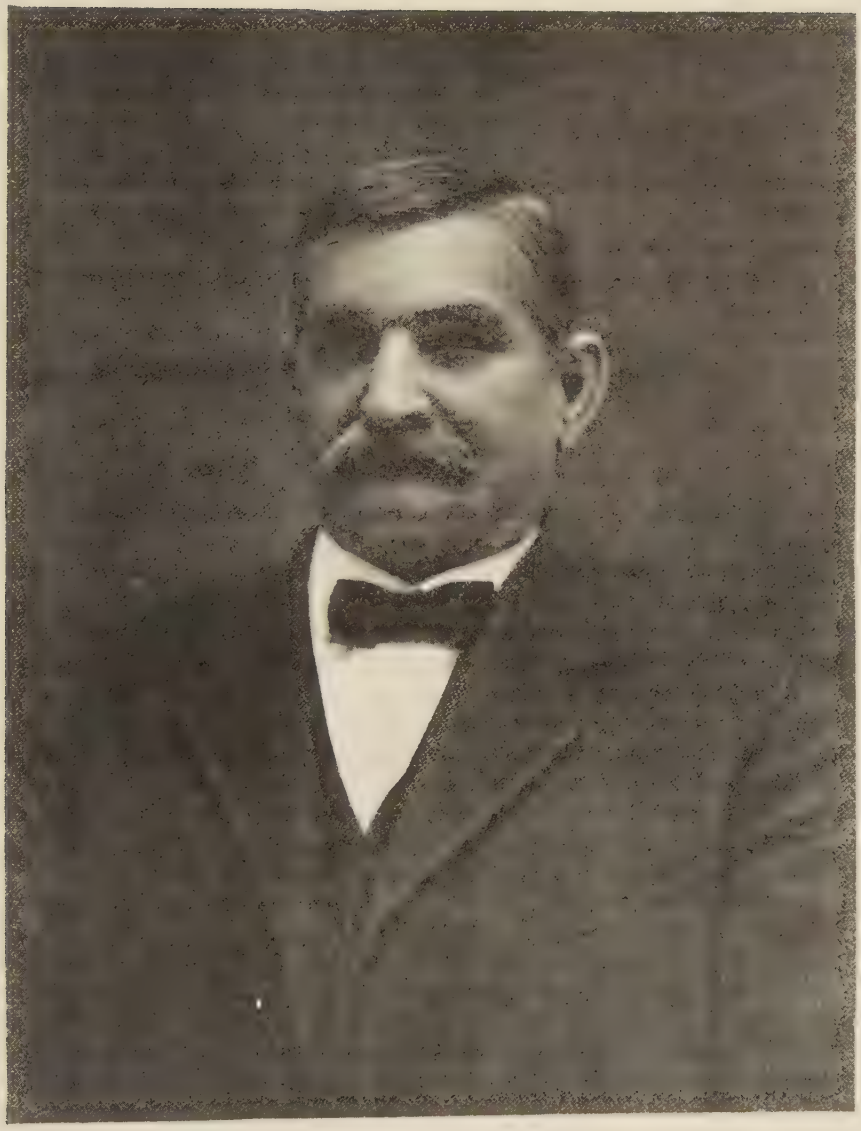
became employed in the plant of Donaldson & Bryan. Not long afterward he entered business for himself, starting a broom factory at Sidney and was there thus engaged until in 1902 when he disposed of his interests at that place and returned to New Bremen, where he was made vice president of the M. B. Brown Company and general manager of that concern's broom factory. Mr. Shearer continued with the Brown company until 1918, when he sold his interest in the same and shortly afterward started another broom factory in the town, establishing himself again in business, under the firm name of the Superior Broom Company. He has a well equipped plant, everything being new and up-to-date and has a present capacity of fifty dozen brooms a day. Upon establishing himself as the Superior Broom Company in 1918 Mr. Shearer also became engaged in the general brokerage business as a broom corn factor, with headquarters at Erick, Okla., the very center of the broom corn country, and has built up a thriving business in that line, this latter branch of his business requiring his presence at Erick during the height of the marketing season for broom corn from August to November of each year. Mr. Shearer has for years given his close attention to the general civic affairs of his home town and is at present one of the members of the New Bremen board of public affairs. He and his wife attend Christ church. On October 19, 1888, Grant Shearer was united in marriage to Flora Miller, daughter of Jonas and Mary (McCool) Miller, of Miami county, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Ray Shearer, who married Beulah Klanke, of New Bremen, and has two children, Helen and Marjorie.

DR. WALTER S. STUCKEY, coroner of Auglaize county, president of the Auglaize County Medical Society and for many years one of the leading physicians of this county, with offices at Wapakoneta, where he has been engaged in practice for the past thirty years, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has been a resident of this state all his life. Doctor Stuckey was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Van Wert on February 25, 1867, and is a son of Jonas S. and Mary (Gilliland) Stuckey, both also natives of Ohio, the latter born at Van Wert in September, 1843. Jonas S. Stuckey, an honored veteran of the Civil war, who is still living in Van Wert county, was born on a pioneer farm in the northwestern part of Logan township in what is now Auglaize county, but which then was in Allen county, in October, 1841, and is a son of Eli and Hannah Stuckey, who were among the earliest pioneers of that part of this county. Eli Stuckey was a son of pioneers of Fairfield county, this state, where he grew to manhood. After his marriage he became attracted to the new lands that were being opened to settlement over in this part of the state and entered a tract of land in section 19 of Logan township, where he established his home and entered upon the trying task of

making a farm out of the woodland. He presently moved from there up into VanWert county and years later he disposed of his interests there and went to Kansas, where his last days were spent. Jonas S. Stuckey was about five years of age when his parents moved to Van Wert county and he was living on the home farm there when the Civil war broke out. In 1861 he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front with the 27th regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which gallant command he served for four years and thus took part in some of the most important engagements of the war, including the campaign of Sherman's army to the sea. Upon the completion of his military service he returned to Van Wert county and there resumed his farming operations, a vocation which he ever since has followed, and is now the owner of a well improved farm of 150 acres on which he continues to make his home. Of the eight children born to Jonas S. Stuckey and wife the subject of this sketch is the eldest. Of these six survive, Doctor Stuckey having two sisters, Maude and Lucy, and three brothers, Perry, Charles and Ray Stuckey. From the days of his boyhood Doctor Stuckey was attracted to the medical profession. Upon completing the course in the local schools in the neighborhood of his home in Van Wert county he took supplementary courses in the normal schools at Middle Point and at Ada and then entered the Ft. Wayne (Ind.) Medical College, from which latter institution he was graduated in 1892 after a course of instruction covering three years. Thus equipped for the practice of the profession to which he had devoted his life, Doctor Stuckey opened an office at Wapakoneta and has ever since been engaged in practice there, with offices on Auglaize street. Doctor Stuckey is a Republican and for years has been recognized as one of the leaders of that party in this county. In the memorable election of 1920 he was elected coroner of the county and is now serving in that official capacity. It is interesting to recall that his name led the ticket in the balloting, an evidence of his local popularity that his friends believe to be but fitting under all the circumstances. In the election of 1922 he was re-elected coroner without opposition. The Doctor was one of the organizers of the Auglaize County Medical Society and is the present president of that body. He also is a member of the Ohio State Medical Society and of the American Medical Association and in the deliberations of these several bodies has for years taken an earnest interest. Fraternally, the Doctor is affiliated with the local lodges of the Freemasons, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Loyal Order of Moose. For two terms he served as a member of the Wapakoneta city council, has also served as a member of the local board of health and for years as pension examiner for this district. In May, 1898, Dr. Walter S. Stuckey was united in marriage to Mary T. Puetz, of

Wapakoneta, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Verdin B. Stuckey, who is at home. The Stuckeys have a pleasant home at Wapakoneta and have ever taken a helpful part in the social and cultural activities of the community.

CHARLES FREDERICK RISSE, formerly and for years a well known hardware merchant at St. Marys, where he died in the spring of 1919, was born at St. Marys and had lived there all his life, which covered a span of just under the traditional three score years and ten. Mr. Risse was born on September 24, 1849, and was a son of Charles F. and Margaret (Schroeder) Risse, the latter of whom was a member of the pioneer Schroeder family who were among the original settlers of the Stallo Town (Minster) neighborhood following the departure of the Indians from this region in 1832. She died in August, 1850, of cholera during the time of the prevalence of that dreadful scourge which swept through the canal strip here not long after the opening of the canal and which was several years in subsiding. Two of her small daughters were taken by this same dread disease, the subject of this memorial sketch having thus been left without maternal care when he was but eleven months old. Charles F. Risse, his father, was a native of the kingdom of Saxony and was there trained as a wagon maker. Upon coming to this country he for some time worked at his trade in Pennsylvania and then, when work on the canal began here in western Ohio, he came out here and set up as a wagon maker at St. Marys, was presently married there and established his home at that place, where he spent the remainder of his life, one of the useful factors in the development of the industrial interests of the town during its pioneer period. Charles Frederick Risse grew to manhood at St. Marys and early began working as a tinner, a vocation he followed until 1881, about five years after his marriage, when he opened a hardware store at St. Marys and thus became a merchant of that place about the time the city began to take on what sometimes has been referred to as its "new lease on life," for it was in the early '80s that St. Marys entered upon that period of progressive development which resulted in the practical reconstruction of the business section of the town and led to so many improvements along the lines of modern progress. For nearly thirty years thereafter Mr. Risse continued engaged in the hardware business, becoming one of the best known merchants in the city, and was thus engaged until his retirement in 1909. After his retirement he continued to make his home at St. Marys and there spent his last days, his death occurring on May 23, 1919, he then being in his seventieth year. He was an earnest Republican and was a member of the German Reformed church. It was on March 2, 1876, that Charles Frederick Risse was united in marriage to Mattie Doute, also a member of one of the pioneer families in this county, and to this union



CHARLES F. RISSE

two sons were born, both of whom died in childhood. Mrs. Risse has an adopted son, Robert Frederick Risse, who was graduated from the St. Marys high school and is now a student in the hydro-electric department of the Case School of Applied Science at Cleveland, a member of the class of 1923 and an "honor key" man of that school. Mrs. Risse was born in Noble township, about two miles north of St. Marys, and is a daughter of Joseph P. and Hester (Watkins) Doute, the latter of whom was born at Maysville, Ky., of Virginia parentage. Joseph P. Doute was born in Ohio and was a member of one of the first families of the St. Marys settlement and in the days of his young manhood was widely known as a school teacher in this vicinity. After his marriage he established his home on a farm in Noble township and became one of the substantial farmers and landowners of that part of the county. The Doutes are of Welch stock. Of the seven children born to Joseph P. Doute and wife, Mrs. Risse alone survives. She is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. Since the death of her husband she has continued to make her home at St. Marys and is very comfortably situated at 222 North Main street.

FRED M. SMITH, secretary and treasurer of the Jaspersen Supply Company of St. Marys and for years one of the best known and most influential factors in the commercial life of that city, was born at St. Marys and has lived there all his life. Mr. Smith was born on September 8, 1872, and is a son of John and Margaret (Hummel) Smith, who are still living at St. Marys. John Smith, a former manufacturer, who is now living retired, was born on a farm four miles south of Wapakoneta, in Pusheta township, this county, and is a son of Michael Smith, who was one of the pioneers of that neighborhood, but whose last days were spent at Wapakoneta, to which city he had moved upon his retirement from the farm which he had reclaimed from the woodland wilderness. Reared on the farm, John Smith received his schooling in the neighboring country school house, and early took up the trade of wagon maker, beginning work in the old Bimel wagon factory at St. Marys, and after his marriage established his home at St. Marys, where he ever since his resided, one of the best known citizens of that town. Years ago John Smith became established in a wagon works of his own at St. Marys and thus continued in business until his retirement in 1914, since which time he has been "taking things easy," in a position to enjoy the fruits of his many years of active industry. To him and his wife were born three children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Elizabeth, and a brother, John L. Smith. Reared at St. Marys, Fred M. Smith finished the course in the high school there and supplemented this by a course in a business college at Dayton, after which he became engaged in business at St. Marys, starting up with a news-

stand and a laundry agency, and was thus engaged until 1893, when he established a steam laundry at St. Marys. Mr. Smith carried on this laundry business for seven years, or until in 1900, when he disposed of the plant and became engaged in the insurance business at St. Marys in association with his brother, John L. Smith, and carried on along this line until 1909, when he became associated with William Jaspersen in the organization of the Jaspersen Supply Company at St. Marys and has since been engaged in this thriving business, secretary and treasurer of the concern. The Jaspersen Supply Company's line is general mill, factory, plumbing and electrical supplies and the jobbing business thus carried on covers a trade radius of not less than seventy-five miles in the territory surrounding St. Marys. The company has an admirably equipped and amply stocked establishment on Spring street, right in the heart of St. Marys' commercial district, and has created for itself a distinct place in the market which it supplies hereabout. Fred M. Smith married Mary E. Elliott, who also was born at St. Marys, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Smith) Elliott and a member of one of the real pioneer families in that city, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at 224 South Wayne street. They are members of the Lutheran church and in their political views maintain their independence of party ties. Mr. Smith is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at St. Marys. During the time of American participation in the World war he took a helpful part in local war activities. Mrs. Smith's father, Thomas Elliott, was a son of James and Ellen (Stockdale) Elliott, who were influential pioneers of this county. James Elliott at one time owned the greater part of what is now the west part of Wapakoneta and further mention of him is made in the historical section of this work.

THOMAS A. WHITE, cashier of the American State Bank of St. Marys, one of the best known bankers in Auglaize county and for years an active factor in the commercial life of St. Marys, is a native "Buckeye" and has been a resident of this state all his life, a resident of St. Marys since the days of his young manhood. Mr. White was born on a farm in Miami county, this state, May 17, 1877, and is a son of Yardley Scott and Sarah (Morris) White, both of whom also were born in Ohio, members of old families in this state, the latter the daughter of Peter Morris and wife, of Montgomery county. The late Yardley Scott White was born in Miami county and was reared on a farm there, a son of George and Mary White, who had come from Pennsylvania. He served for eighteen months as a soldier of the Union during the Civil war and after his marriage became engaged in farming on his own account and presently moved to Shelby county, where he bought a farm and established his home, spending the remainder of his life in this latter county. To him and

his wife were born four children, all of whom are living save one—a daughter, Anna—the subject of this sketch having a sister, Bertha, and a brother, Harland S. White. Reared on the home farm in the northeastern part of Miami county, Thomas A. White completed the course in the high school at Fletcher and supplemented this schooling by a short course in Valparaiso University at Valparaiso, Ind., giving his special attention to the commercial course, and became an expert stenographer. For three years thereafter he was employed as a stenographer at Sidney and then he went to St. Marys, where he became employed as a stenographer in the office of the machine works, and was thus employed at the time of the organization of the American State Bank in that city in 1903. At that time Mr. White transferred his services to the new bank and was there employed as a clerk and bookkeeper until his promotion to the position of cashier of the bank in 1918, a position he ever since has occupied. On July 15, 1903, the year in which he entered upon his connection with the American State Bank, Thomas A. White was united in marriage to Elva Allen, daughter of Anthony J. and Eleanor (Gorsich) Allen, of Sidney, Ohio, and to this union three children have been born, Norma, Mary Lee and Ruth. Mr. and Mrs. White are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are Republicans. They have a pleasant home at 729 West Jackson street and take an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of their home town.

LAFE W. KELLERMEYER, manager of the local plant at New Bremen of the J. A. Long Company (produce), was born at New Bremen and has lived there all his life. Mr. Kellermeyer was born on February 22, 1878, and is a son of August and Wilhelmina (Whippleing) Kellermeyer, both of whom were also born in this county, members of pioneer families here, the Kellermeyers and the Whippleings having been among the early residents of the New Bremen neighborhood. August Kellermeyer, who is now living retired at New Bremen, was formerly and for years, in the days of the canal, connected with the operations of the H. J. Boesche pork packing industry at New Bremen and later was for years in the grain trade. To him and his wife were born seven children, of whom five are living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Elmer, Malinda, Clara and Fredonia. Reared at New Bremen, where he was born, Lafe W. Kellermeyer received his schooling in the local schools and early began working in the Kuenzel woolen mill, where he remained for fifteen years or until failing health compelled his retirement from the confining labors thus entailed. A few months after leaving the woolen mill Mr. Kellermeyer became connected with the operations of the J. A. Long Company string of produce houses and after awhile was made manager of the St. Mary's branch of that company's

operations. In 1919 he was made manager of the New Bremen branch of the Long Company's interests and has so continued since, during this time having done much to develop the operations of the plant there, making it one of the best buying stations in the long string of such plants carried on by this company throughout the middle West. Mr. Kellermeyer is a Republican. He is a member of the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias and of the Woodmen of the World at New Bremen and he and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church. Mr. Kellermeyer married Sophia Blase, daughter of Henry Blase, and to this union two children have been born, Leon and Pearl, both of whom are married. Leon Kellermeyer married Herminia Dickey and Pearl Kellermeyer married Elmer Wittenbrink and has one child, a daughter, Marguerite.

WILLIAM E. FISHER, a well known retired farmer and landowner of Pusheta township and who formerly and for years was engaged in the milling business at Wapakoneta, where he is now living, carrying on a local real estate business, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Fisher was born on a pioneer farm in the western part of Pusheta township on August 12, 1853, and is a son of Andrew and Mary (France) Fisher, both of whom were of European birth, born at Wittenberg in Prussian Saxony, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the early '40s of the past century, the Fishers and the Frances settling in what later came to be organized as Auglaize county. Andrew Fisher was a young man when he came to this country, but the expense incident to the emigration and settlement had pretty well exhausted all his available resources and when, about a year after his arrival here, he sought in marriage the girl of his choice he found it necessary to borrow from his prospective father-in-law 75 cents to meet the fee for the marriage license. For a time he worked on the construction of the Miami & Erie canal, which then was being constructed up through this part of the state, and it is said that for this service he received wages at the rate of $5 a month. He was working on that section of the canal about Piqua and would walk back and forth from Wapakoneta to the scene of his labor each week. He began his farming as a renter, living in a log cabin, but it was not long until his energetic efforts began to be rewarded and he presently was able to buy a small tract of land and start in on his own account. To this small farm he added from time to time until at the time of his death he was the owner of a fine farm of 240 acres in Pusheta township and had long been accounted one of the substantial citizens of that community. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mrs. Rosa Emmel and Mrs. Elizabeth Waltz, and a brother, Lorenzo Fisher. Reared on the home farm in Pusheta township,

WILLIAM E. FISHER AND WIFE

William E. Fisher received his schooling in the neighboring district school (the Taylor school in section 19—old No. 7 school), a log school house which had for seats slabs from the nearby saw mill. When sixteen years of age he left the farm and went to Wapakoneta where his elder brother, George Fisher, meanwhile had become engaged in the milling business, and under his brother's direction began to learn the details of flour milling. This old Fisher mill, built after the coming of the railroad, stood at the site now occupied by the cigar factory at the southwest corner of Park and Mechanic streets, and was a busy center in its day. For nine years William E. Fisher remained in this mill and then returned to the home farm in Pusheta township and, having married meanwhile, bought a tract of eighty acres from his father and established his home there. His farming operations prospered and some years later he bought an adjoining tract of eighty acres from a neighbor and thus was able to enlarge the scope of his operations on a 160 acre farm, which he still owns. When the old Farmers Milling Company was organized Mr. Fisher became one of the directing heads of the organization and was elected treasurer of the company. He then moved back to town in order to give his personal and technical attention to the affairs of the mill and was thus engaged for five years, at the end of which time the mill was sold to Michael Hauss and he moved back to the farm, where he continued to make his home until his retirement in 1912 and removal to Wapakoneta, where he has since resided, having a very comfortable home at the corner of Ohio and Vine streets. Since retiring from the farm Mr. Fisher has been giving his attention to the local real estate field and thus finds agreeable diversion in the pleasant "evening time" of his life. He is a Republican and he and his wife are members of St. Mark's Lutheran church. It was on April 4, 1875, that William E. Fisher was united in marriage to Barbara Elass, who had come to this country when about nine years of age with her parents Philip and Magdalene (Young) Elass, from Stark county, this state, where she was born, and whose schooling thus was completed in this county. Philip Elass was a well-to-do farmer. He and his wife had eleven daughters, seven of whom are still living, those besides Mrs. Barbara Fisher being Mrs. John Fisher, of Wapakoneta; Mrs. Adam Silverman, of Miamisburg, Ohio; Mrs. Sophia Braunschwieger, of Troy, Ohio; Mrs. August Lambers, of Wapakoneta; Miss Louise Elass, of Miamisburg, and Mrs. C. M. Davis, of California. To William E. and Barbara (Elass) Fisher have been born nine children, Emma, George, Fred, Millie, Alfred, Frank, William, Vernon, and Alma, all of whom are living and all married. Emma Fisher married Charles Schimmel, a clerk in the Miller department store at Wapakoneta, and has one child, a daughter, Florence. George Fisher, who is now engaged in the real estate

business at Lima in association with his brother Fred, married Nora Kitehorn and has three children, Pauline, a teacher in the Lima high school, Mildred, also a teacher, and William. Fred Fisher married Cora Beery and is living at Lima, where he is associated with his brother, George, in the real estate business. Millie Fisher is the wife of Otto Rhine, a Wapakoneta druggist. Alfred Fisher, who is now living at Piqua, married Pearl Giberson and has one child, a son, Arnold. Frank Fisher, who is proprietor of the Annex billiard parlor at Wapakoneta, married Bessie Campbell and has one child, a daughter, Betty. William Fisher married Mamie McFarland and is now living at Lancaster, Ohio, where he is engaged as a foreman in a glass factory. Vernon Fisher, who is now manager of a furniture store at Lima, married Pauline Hoover and has had one child, who died in infancy. Alma Fisher married Bernard Wissner, a local cigar maker, and has three children, Richard, Frederick and Ruth.

MATT J. BROCKERT, manager of the Brockert shoe store on East Auglaize street in Wapakoneta and one of the best known and most alert young business men in that city, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life, a resident of Wapakoneta since the days of his childhood. Mr. Brockert was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of the village of Freyburg, in Pusheta township, this county, March 9, 1891, and is a son of Philip E. and Elizabeth (Eisert) Brockert, both of whom also were born in this county, members of old families here, and the latter of whom is still living, making her home at Wapakoneta, where she has resided for years. The late Philip E. Brockert was born in the village of Freyburg and was a son of John Brockert, who was one of the pioneer merchants of that village and who also for years served as postmaster there. Reared in the village, Philip E. Brockert received his schooling there and grew up familiar with the details of merchandising in his father's store, but after his marriage became interested in farming and established his home on a farm of eighty acres which he owned in the vicinity of Freyburg, and there was engaged in farming for fifteen years, at the end of which time he sold his farm and moved to Wapakoneta, where he built a commercial building and opened a shoe store on East Auglaize street. In that business he was engaged the remainder of his life, building up an establishment there that is being continued since his death. Mr. Brockert died in May, 1919, and his widow retains her proprietary interest in the store, the active management of which is in the hands of her eldest son, Matt J. Brockert. Besides this son she has had ten children, seven of whom are living, there being three daughters, Mrs. Teresa Brown and Frances of Lima, Ohio, and Clara, who is at home with her mother, and four other sons, Alphonso, Edwin, Francis and Raymond Brockert. Alphonso Brockert is a veteran of the World war with an over-

seas record. He served as a corporal in an infantry regiment and was seriously wounded in action, the character of his wound being such as to confine him to the hospital for a year or more. Matt J. Brockert received his schooling at Freyburg and was but a youngster when his parents moved from the farm to Wapakoneta. He early took an interested part in the operation of his father's shoe store and thus grew up familiar with all the details of the business, so that upon the death of his father he was properly qualified to take charge of the business in his mother's behalf and carry on without any interruption of the old established trade. Mr. Brockert married Elizabeth Mestamaker, of Chickasaw, Ohio, daughter of Henry and Philomena Mestamaker. The Brockerts are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church and Mr. Brockert is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus. He also is affiliated with the local lodge of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

VALENTINE A. VOGEL, superintendent of the plant of the St. Marys Gas Company, is a native of the old Empire state, but has been a resident of Ohio since the days of his childhood and of St. Marys for the past twelve years. Mr. Vogel was born at Buffalo, N. Y., March 26, 1874, and is a son of Charles G. and Amelia (Harter) Vogel, both of whom were born in Germany and had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their childhood, the families locating at Buffalo, where they grew up and were married. Charles G. Vogel was trained to the trade of cabinet making, a vocation he followed the remainder of his active life. For some years after his marriage he continued thus occupied at Buffalo and then moved to Lima, Ohio, where he became engaged in the same line. To him and his wife were born eight children, four of whom are still living. Valentine A. Vogel was but a lad when he came to Ohio with his parents and he received his schooling at Lima. He completed the second year in high school and then became engaged with his father in cabinet making, a line which he followed for seven years, at the end of which time he became employed in the service department of the gas company at Lima. Not long afterward he was sent by this company to take charge of its pumping station in the St. Marys neighborhood in this county and was there thus employed for about nine years, at the end of which time he returned to Lima, where for the next six years he was connected with the artificial gas plant operated there by this same company and was thus engaged until 1910, when he became employed as superintendent of the gas plant at St. Marys, where he since has made his home and during which time he has made numerous improvements at the gas plant and a general extension of the service to meet the demands of the up-to-date development that has taken place there during the period of his service in this connection. Mr. Vogel is a Freemason and a

member of the St. Marys lodge (Shawnee, No. 75) of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, in which latter order he has attained to the encampment degree, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. On May 5, 1897, Valentine A. Vogel, was united in marriage to Nora Yingling, who was born at Freedom, Pa., but who was reared and educated in Ohio, to which latter state her parents, Simon P. and Jennie (Lasch) Yingling, had moved when she was a child, the family locating at Lima. To Mr. and Mrs. Vogel three children have been born, Howard (deceased), Robert, born on January 25, 1908, and Dorothy, January 14, 1910, who are attending school at St. Marys. The Vogels have a pleasant home at 230 North Perry street.

GEORGE A. MAKLEY, veteran blacksmith and general mechanical repair man at St. Marys, one of the best known figures in industrial life of that city, was born at St. Marys on August 2, 1855, and is a son of of George and Caroline (Martz) Makley, the latter of whom, a member of one of the pioneer families of the St. Marys settlement, is still living at St. Marys at the venerable age of ninety years. The late George Makley was a European by birth, born in the grand duchy of Baden, and was six years of age when in 1827 he came with his parents and the six other children of the family to the United States, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and locating at Dayton. Ten years later, he then being sixteen years of age, he came up into this part of the state and located at St. Marys, which then was beginning to take on a new life in view of the promised coming of the canal. There he became employed as a blacksmith helper in the shop of his brother-in-law, George Wise, who had become established in business there, and under this tutelage became an expert blacksmith and in due time was there married and established his home. He presently set up in business for himself as a blacksmith and in 1865 built a shop on Spring street, at the site now occupied by the Heap clothing store, and was for years engaged in business there. He died at St. Marys in February, 1904. To him and his wife were born fifteen children, all but three of whom—Fred, Charles and Caroline—are living, those besides the subject of this sketch (the eldest) being Joseph, Andrew, Edward, Albert, Thomas, John, Louis, Mary, Catherine, Henry and Barbara. Besides this generous family, he and his wife also reared four orphan children in their hospitable home. Reared at St. Marys, George A. Makley received his schooling there and early became a valued assistant to his father in the blacksmith shop, under his father's skilled direction, thus becoming a competent blacksmith and general worker in iron. In due time Mr. Makley became engaged in business for himself and in 1896 bought the old Bimel carriage factory on South street, between Front and Main streets, and for some

GEORGE A. MAKLEY AND FAMILY

years thereafter carried on operations there, continuing the carriage and wagon manufacturing line until changing conditions and the general adoption of the automobile in road traffic rendered this no longer profitable, and in 1911 he retired and turned the business over to his sons, Herbert and William Makley, who give their attention to the general repair line and have an ample equipment for such a purpose, their specialty being general automobile repair work and the construction of bodies for school hacks, proprietors of one of the best establishments of this sort hereabout. In his political views Mr. Makley reserves the right to vote independently of party ties. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and he and his family are members of Holy Rosary Catholic church. On July 1, 1879, in Colorado, George A. Makley was united in marriage to Elmina Unthank and to this union have been born six children, four of whom, Herbert, William, Arthur and Fred are living. Herbert Makley married Dora Koehn and has five children, Elmira, Ruth, Clara, Alberta and Philip. William Makley married Catherine Wilmes, of Sandusky, Ohio, and has six children, Clarence, George, William, Wilma, Carl and Rosemary. Arthur Makley married Huldah Gershner and has one child, a son, Donald, and Fred Makley married Antoinette Fellows and has three children, Mary, William and Antoinette. Mrs. Elmina Makley was born at Chester, Iowa, and is a daughter of Mordecai and Eliza Jane (Stanley) Unthank, the former of whom was a Carolinian and the latter a native of Henry county, Indiana. Mordecai Unthank and his wife were the parents of nine children, four of whom are still living, Mrs. Makley having two sisters, Emily and Eva, and a brother, Albert Unthank. Among the prized tools in Mr. Makley's possession is a hand wrought hammer which was made by his father in 1849 and which for more than seventy years has been in pretty constant use and which appears to be good for many years of further service.

EDWIN H. NIETER, one of New Bremen's best known merchants, the proprietor of a well equipped general store there, was born on a farm in St. Mary's township on February 26, 1886, and is a son of Herman C. and Louise (Rump) Nieter, both of whom also were born in this county, the latter in German township, daughter of Herman and Wilhelmina Rump. Herman C. Nieter, who is now living retired at New Bremen, was born on a pioneer farm in St. Marys township on June 1, 1858, a son of Charles and Wilhelmina (Uetrecht) Nieter, who had come to this country from Germany with their respective parents in the days of their childhood, the families settling in this county. Charles Nieter was about twelve years of age when he came to this country with his parents and he grew to manhood in the New Bremen neighborhood, his first work there being in connection with the construction of the canal through

that part of the state. After his marriage he established his home at Lock 2 (New Paris), just northeast of New Bremen, and began there working for the sawmill, hauling logs with oxen. After awhile he bought an eighty-acre tract of land in the woods in St. Marys township and made his home there, clearing the place and making a farm out of it, in time adding to this place until he had 180 acres and was accounted one of the good farmers of the neighborhood. He and his wife had three children, Henry, Herman and Louise. Herman C. Nieter grew to manhood on that farm and after his marriage continued to make his home there, renting the place. After his father's death he became possessed of eighty acres of the home farm and as his affairs prospered added to this until he had 102 acres, which he still owns and which he continued to farm until his retirement from the farm in 1916 and removal to New Bremen, where he is now living. To him and his wife were born seven children, those besides the subject of this sketch, the third in order of birth, being Bertha, Edward, Harry, Wilson, Leona and Pauline, all of whom are married save the last named. Bertha Nieter married Edwin Ellerman and has one child, Esolda. Edward Nieter married Clara Doenges and has one child, Julietta. Harry Nieter married Nora Kuhlhorst and has one child, Marcella. Wilson Nieter married Rosa Gruebmeyer and has one child, Louise, and Leona Nieter married Irvin Koeper. The Nieters are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen. Herman C. Nieter is a Democrat and for some time during his residence in St. Marys township served as pike superintendent and also as a school director. Edwin H. Nieter grew to manhood on the home farm in St. Marys township, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and for some years as a young man continued farming. He then took a business course in a commercial school at St. Marys and then went to Chicago, where he was engaged as a clerk in a hardware store for about four years, at the end of which time he returned to St. Marys and was there engaged in clerking for eighteen months. By this time he had come to the conclusion to get into business for himself and he then bought from Henry Dickman the store he now has in New Bremen and in November, 1910, took charge of the same and has since been engaged in business at that place. Since taking over that store Mr. Nieter has added to his equipment and has enlarged his stock until now he has a complete line of general merchandise. His store room is 25 by 65 feet in dimension and his business is carried on in up-to-date fashion. Edwin H. Nieter is a Democrat and for six years served as clerk of German township. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and he and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church, of which he formerly was a deacon. Mr. Nieter married Adelia Dammeyer, daughter of Fred Dammeyer, and has one child, a daughter, Leota.

HERMAN SCHAEFER, a former member of the New Bremen city council, and for years engaged in that city as a building contractor, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has lived here all his life, a resident of New Bremen for many years past. He was born on a farm in St. Marys township on August 21, 1868, and is a son of Henry and Louise (Brune) Schaefer, both of whom also were born in this county. Henry Schaefer, an honored veteran of the Civil war, who is now living retired on his well-kept farm in St. Marys township, was born in that township, a member of one of the pioneer families in that part of the county, and there grew to manhood. When the Civil war came on he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of the 37th regiment of Ohio volunteer Infantry, with which command he served from 1862 to the close of the war. During this period of service Mr. Schaefer participated in some of the most important engagements of the war, including the siege of Vicksburg. It was during this siege that he was severely wounded, May 19, 1863, and was for several months thereafter confined to the hospital. Upon the completion of his military service, Henry Schaefer returned home, and after his marriage established his home on a farm in St. Marys township, where he continued thus actively engaged in farming until his retirement some years ago, though he continues to make his home on the farm, where he is very comfortably situated. To him and his wife were born seven children, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Flora, Emma, Laura and Martha, and two brothers, Edward and Henry Schaefer. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, Herman Schaefer received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and for some time during the days of his young manhood worked with his father on the farm. He then became engaged in carpentering and learned the building trade thoroughly, following that vocation until in 1895, when he became engaged as a cabinetmaker in the Klanke furniture factory at New Bremen. For eight years Mr. Schaefer followed this latter vocation, and then resumed his building operations, starting in as a building contractor on his own account, and has ever since been thus engaged, one of the best known contractors in this part of the state. During this long period of service as a builder, Mr. Schaefer has built houses in all parts of that section of the county, and the substantial character of his work will long stand as a monument to his skill and ability in that line. Mr. Schaefer is a Republican and has for years given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs, for eight years having served as a member of the town council at New Bremen. Herman Schaefer married Rosa Luebkemann, daughter of Gerhart Luebkemann, of Mercer county, this state, and to this union three children have been

born, Leota, Harold and Erna. Mr. and Mrs. Schaefer are members of the St. Paul's Lutheran church, and for some time Mr. Schaefer served as a deacon of that congregation.

WILLIAM A. MACKENBACH, head of the firm of Mackenbach Bros., lumber dealers of St. Marys, at one time a member of the common council of that city and for years recognized as one of the influential figures in the civic and industrial life of the community, was born at St. Marys and has been a resident of that city all his life. Mr. Mackenbach was born on September 8, 1868, and is a son of Frederick W. and Julia A. (Wagner) Mackenbach, the latter of whom was born in that same township, December 8, 1843, a member of one of the pioneer families of that region, and is still living, making her home at St. Marys, now in her eightieth year. The late Frederick W. Mackenbach, founder of the business now being carried on by his sons, was of European birth, born in the vicinity of the old free port of Cologne, now the capital of Rhenish Prussia, March 22, 1826, and was reared there, being trained as a miller. Upon completing his service in the army he became a miller on his own account and thus continued until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he disposed of his interests there and in 1854 came to the United States, proceeding on out into Ohio and locating at St. Marys, which at that time was just entering upon a systematic development of the woodworking industries which had sprung up there following the opening of the canal and to which the then apparently inexhaustible stretches of hard timber hereabout lent so great a value. Mr. Mackenbach secured a tract of land a mile and a half east of St. Marys and there erected a mill, with particular equipment for the manufacture of lumber but also equipped for grinding grain. On that site he operated his mill for about ten years, or until the big timber in that vicinity was practically out of the way, when he built a plant at St. Marys and erected a saw mill on North Chestnut street at Columbia street, the present site of the Mackenbach lumber yard, and there proceeded to enlarge his operations to include a general lumber and mill-finishing business. That was in 1863. The next year he married and established his home at St. Marys and there spent the remainder of his life, a helpful and influential factor in the development of the industrial interests of the town. In 1891, his sons meantime becoming associated with him in the operation of the saw mill, Mr. Mackenbach increased his plant to include general building supplies and he continued active in business until his death on July 6, 1906, he then being past eighty years of age. Frederick W. Mackenbach took an active interest in local civic affairs and for some time served as a representative of his ward in the city common council. He and his wife were members of the Zion Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. It was

FREDERICK WILLIAM MACKENBACH AND FAMILY

in 1864 that Frederick W. Mackenbach was united in marriage to Julia Wagner, whose parents had settled in St. Marys township in the early '40s and who survives him. To that union were born four children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Matilda, wife of August Grauer, and the two brothers, August F. and Edward Mackenbach, who are associated in business with him and concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume. William A. Mackenbach was reared at St. Marys, where he was born, and in the excellent schools of that city received his schooling. From the days of his boyhood he was an able assistant to his father in the task attending the development of the Mackenbach milling interests at St. Marys and when he had attained his majority was taken into the business by his father and as his younger brothers reached their majority they also were taken into the firm, which after the death of Frederick W. Mackenbach, founder of the business, was changed to Mackenbach Bros., with William A. Mackenbach, the elder brother, head of the firm, and has so continued, the business in the meantime having been developed and expanded until now the Mackenbach lumber yard is regarded as one of the largest and most completely stocked concerns of the kind in this part of the state. William A. Mackenbach is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, a former member of the city common council. He and his wife are members of the Zion Lutheran church. On November 25,1897, William A. Mackenbach was united in marriage to Emma C. Warner, who was born in Salem township, this county, daughter of Jacob and Anna Warner, both now deceased, and to this union four children have been born, Frederick, Anna, William and Edith, all of whom are at home. The Mackenbachs have a very pleasant home at 326 North Chestnut street.

AUGUST F. MACKENBACH, of the firm of Mackenbach Bros., lumber dealers at St. Marys and for years recognized as one of the "live wires" in industrial circles in that city, was born at St. Marys in 1876 and is a son of Frederick W. and Julia A. (Wagner) Mackenbach, the latter of whom was born in St. Marys township, a member of one of the real pioneer families of that township, and who is still living, making her home at St. Marys, now in her eightieth year. The late Frederick W. Mackenbach, who died at his home in St. Marys in the summer of 1906 and of whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work, was a native of Germany, born in the vicinity of Cologne, in Rhenish Prussia, in 1826 and was twenty-eight years of age when he came to this country in 1854 and located in this county, establishing a mill east of St. Marys which he operated for ten years, at the end of which time he moved his plant into town and established the business in lumber and builders supplies which since his death has been carried on by his sons, the subject

of this sketch being thus associated in business with his brothers, William A. and Edward Mackenbach, further mention of whom is made elsewhere. August F. Mackenbach was reared at St. Marys and there received his schooling. From boyhood he was interested in the operation of his father's saw mill and in the development of the Mackenbach lumber interests there and upon attaining his majority was taken into the business, which after his father's death was reorganized and has since been carried on under the firm name of Mackenbach Bros. and has been developed into one of the leading concerns of the kind in this part of Ohio. Mr. Mackenbach is a Freemason and he and his wife are members of the Zion Lutheran church. In 1903 August F. Mackenbach was united in marriage to Mary Sophia Dickman, who was born in St. Marys township, daughter of Fred Dickman, a substantial farmer and landowner of that township, and to this union have been born six children, Albert, Lillian, Edgar, Julia, Paul and Charles, all of whom are at home. The Mackenbachs have a very pleasant home at 301 North Chestnut street in St. Marys.

HENRY C. SMULLIN, a veteran of the Civil war, formerly and for years superintendent of the Neeley-Clover oil operations in Ohio and Indiana, for years also an oil operator on his own account, one of the best known oil men in this part of the country, now living retired at his pleasant home at St. Marys, where he has resided for the past twenty-five years, is a native of the old Keystone state, where he "grew up" to the oil business, but has been a resident of Ohio for so long that he feels himself very properly to be as good a "Buckeye" as any. Mr. Smullin was born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, October 24, 1844, son of William S. and Martha (Collum) Smullin, and was about seven years of age when his parents moved from that county to Clarion county, same state, where he received his schooling and where he was living when the Civil war broke out. Though but sixteen years of age when war between the states was declared, Mr. Smullin at once enlisted his services in behalf of the Union cause and because he was a pretty "husky" boy for his age and because the recruiting officers were complaisant he was accepted for service and went to the front as a member of Company I of the 78th regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, with which gallant command he served for three years and four months. This regiment was one of the conspicuous units of General Sherman's army and thus Mr. Smullin participated in most of the battles in which that great army took part, some of the most important engagements of the war, and when the spirit moves him can tell some mighty interesting stories relating to his service. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Smullin returned to his home in Pennsylvania and almost immediately thereafter became engaged in

the oil field in the celebrated Oil Creek region, where the great American oil development began. He started in as driver of an oil wagon—that, of course, being in the days before the development of the pipe line system of oil transportation—and for some time continued thus engaged, in the meantime becoming familiar with all details of operation in the oil fields, and then became engaged as an operator on his own account, his individual operations beginning along in the middle '80s. Mr. Smullin continued operating in the Pennsylvania oil fields until in 1897, when he moved to St. Marys and began to take part in the development of the then very promising oil field in that neighborhood and so continued until about six years ago, when he retired. The last ten years of his active connection with local oil operations were spent acting as superintendent of the extensive interests developed in the Ohio and Indiana oil fields by the Neeley-Clover Company. In 1916 Mr. Smullin and his wife, accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. Walker and the latter's daughter, went to California and for three years thereafter lived in enjoyment of the scenic and climatic beauties of Los Angeles county. Since his return to St. Marys Mr. Smullin has lived practically retired, although he has retained sufficient active interests to keep him from "rusting out." Mr. Smullin is a Democrat and has ever taken a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs, though not a seeker after public office. He is a Freemason of many years' standing and has attained to both the capitular and cryptic degrees in this ancient order, a member of the blue lodge (Mercer, No. 121), Free and Accepted Masons, at St. Marys, and of the chapter, Royal Arch Masons, and the council, Royal and Select Masters, in that city. Mrs. Smullin is a member of the Presbyterian church. On May 5, 1870, in Clarion county, Pennsylvania, Henry C. Smullin was united in marriage to Rosanna B. Neeley, who was born in that county, December 16, 1847, daughter of Jesse and Mary (Sigworth) Neeley, and to this union were born four children, Blanche, Norma A., William S. and Vera H., all of whom are living save the last named. Blanche Smullin was born on March 15, 1871. She married Lewis H. Bell, a lumberman, who died at Miami, Fla., February 16, 1915, and was buried there, where he had been making his home for some time prior to his death. Norma A. Smullin, who was born on October 3, 1873, married J. Cort Walker, now vice president of the Myercord Transfer Company of Chicago, and has one child, a daughter, Dorothy E. The Walkers make their home in Chicago. William S. Smullin, born on September 29, 1876, now living retired at Whittier, Cal., formerly was vice president of the International Oil Corporation and manager in charge of the Tropical Oil Company. He married Anna Laird and has one child, a son, William S., Jr. Vera H. Smullin, who was born January 1, 1879, married Charles Jenkins a

wholesale shoe salesman, of Pittsburgh, Pa. She died on January 30, 1905, leaving three children, H. Stewart, Mary H. and Vera B., the latter of whom was graduated from the Oak Park high school at Chicago with the class of 1922. H. Stewart Jenkins, a veteran of the World war, secretary of the American Legion post at St. Marys and secretary of the commercial club of that city, married Mary Pauck and is engaged in the insurance business at St. Marys, one of that city's most active and energetic young business men. Mary H. Jenkins married Harold Ausman, a jeweler at St. Marys. Mr. and Mrs. Smullin have a pleasant home at 237 South Ash street, St. Marys.

JOHN J. HAY, former mayor of Wapakoneta, former city treasurer, formerly and for years engaged in the manufacture of cigars at Wapakoneta and for the past ten years and more engaged as a bookkeeper in the office of the New Wapakoneta Wheel Company in that city, was born in Wapakoneta and has been a resident of that city all his life. Mr. Hay was born on March 18, 1860, and is a son of Athanasius and Mary (Schloeder) Hay, both of whom were of European birth, the latter born at Treves, in Rhenish Prussia, and both of whom spent their last days in Wapakoneta. Athanasius Hay was born in Bifshofsheim in the Kingdom of Bavaria in 1827 and remained in his native country until he was twenty-five years of age when, in 1853, he came to America and proceeded on out into Ohio, settling at Ft. Jennings, in Putnam county, where he opened a shoe shop and where he remained for several years, at the end of which time he moved to Wapakoneta and opened a shoe shop in the latter city. Some years later he sold this shop and opened a grocery store at the corner of Pearl and Blackhoof streets, the site now occupied by St. Joseph's parochial school, and for fourteen years was engaged in that business at that point. He then resumed his old trade as a shoemaker and in this latter vocation was employed the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1879. His wife had preceded him to the grave about seven years, her death having occurred in 1872. They were the parents of four children, all of whom are living save Joseph, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Elizabeth and Mary. Reared at Wapakoneta, John J. Hay received his schooling in the local schools and after leaving school became employed in the local cigar factory, where he learned all the details of this business and was so engaged until 1901, when he opened a factory of his own, making a specialty of his once widely distributed "True" cigar. For ten years Mr. Hay continued his activities as a cigar manufacturer, or until 1911, when he accepted his present position as bookkeeper in the office of the New Wapakoneta Wheel Company and has since been thus engaged. Mr. Hay is a Republican and has for years given his earnest attention to local political affairs, long

JOHN J. HAY

having been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in this county. For four years (1908-12) he served as treasurer of the city, and for a like period of two terms (1912-16) served as mayor of the city. He is the present secretary of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and is also a member of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. In June, 1882, John J. Hay was united in marriage to Elizabeth Bailiff, who also was born in this county, daughter of Louis Bailiff, and to this union seven children have been born, of whom four are living, three daughters and one son, namely: Maida, who married John Gibson and has three children, Vera, Louetta and Harold; Edna, wife of Fred McClintock; Helen, wife of Robert Connelly, and Harry Hay, a veteran of the World war, whose service was rendered in the aviation section, beginning at Camp Sherman and transferred thence to Waco, Tex., and thence to a flying field in Florida. Mr. and Mrs. Hay have a pleasant home on East Pearl street and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the city.

OWEN C. MYERS, proprietor of a plumbing and heating establishment at Wapakoneta and one of the well known business men in that city, is a Hoosier by birth but has been a resident of Ohio for the past twenty years and more and has no reason to regret the choice that has made him a citizen of this state. Mr. Myers was born at Ft. Wayne, Ind., June 17, 1875, and is a son of George and Rosa (McBennett) Myers, the latter of whom was born in the state of New York. George Myers was born in the state of Pennsylvania but was married in New York, whence he presently moved to Indiana and at New Haven, just east of Ft. Wayne, became engaged in building contracting. Three years later he moved to Ft. Wayne, where he became engaged as a general contractor and where he died in 1888. To him and his wife were born eight children, of whom three are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Catherine, and a brother, George Myers. Owen C. Myers was thirteen years of age when his father died. He supplemented the schooling received in the schools of Ft. Wayne by a course in a business college at Sheboygan, Wis., and in this latter city served an apprenticeship in a plumbing shop, becoming there skilled in the details of the plumbing trade, a vocation he ever since has followed. Mr. Myers was married at Ft. Wayne when twenty-five years of age and in the year following (1901) came over into Ohio and established his home at Delphos, where he was engaged working at his trade until 1911 when he moved to Wapakoneta to take charge of the plumbing and heating department of the Doering hardware establishment in that city. For five years he was thus engaged and then, in 1916, he set up an establishment of his own and has since been engaged in the plumbing and heating line on his own account in Wapakon

and has done well, his plant being well equipped and competent to take care of all demands made in the local trade. It was on October 16, 1900, at Ft. Wayne, that Owen C. Myers was united in marriage to Anna R. Lauer, of that city, and he and his wife have a pleasant home at 311 East Benton street. They are Democrats and are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church. Mr. Myers is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and is also affiliated with the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

CHRISTIAN J. VOSSLER, who, in association with his son, Raymond, is proprietor of the old established bottling works at Wapakoneta and one of the best known business men in that city, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has resided here all his life save for a period of a few years during the days of his young manhood when he was "prospecting around" out in Missouri. Mr. Vossler was born on a farm about a mile and a half north of Wapakoneta, in the southwest quarter of section 16 of Duchouquet township, July 6, 1864, and is a son of Chris and Catherine (Keller) Vossler, who were for years substantial residents of that part of the county. The late Chris Vossler was born in Germany and was but seven years of age when he came to this country with his parents, Chris Vossler and wife, the family coming on out to Ohio and settling on an unimproved tract of land north of the then village of Wapakoneta, the farm above referred to, where the family home became established and where the parents spent the remainder of their lives, useful pioneers of that neighborhood. The younger Chris Vossler grew up on that farm, a place of ninety-seven acres, and after his marriage took over the farm and continued to operate it, remaining there until in 1918, when he retired from the farm and moved to Wapakoneta, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there on June 20, 1920. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom eight are still living, the subject of this sketch having five sisters, Anna, Mary, Catherine, Susan and Caroline, and two brothers, Charles and Henry Vossler. Reared on the home farm north of town in Duchouquet township, Christian J. Vossler received his schooling in the district school which served that neighborhood and remained on the farm, helpful in the labors of developing the same, until he was nineteen years of age, when (in 1883) he went West with a view to following the old bit of advice about growing up with the country and for three years was engaged working at various jobs in Missouri. By this time he had enough of the West and was quite content to return to Ohio. Upon his return here he became employed in the Gunther bottling works at Wapakoneta and after his marriage two or three years later established his home in that

city, where he ever since has resided. In 1907 Mr. Vossler bought the bottling works plant and has since been engaged in that business on his own account, having built up an extensive trade in soda waters covering this part of the state pretty generally, the popularity of his product long ago having created a definite and dependable market for the same. He also operates an ice plant in connection with the bottling works and has done well. Mr. Vossler is a Democrat and is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce, the Kiwanis Club, the lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Fraternal Order of Eagles and he and his wife are members of the Evangelical church. On township, this county, and to this union, two children have been born, a son, Raymond, and a daughter, Betty. Raymond Vossler, who is associated with his father in the bottling business, married Viola Edmison and has three children, Maclin, Lena and William.

IRVIN J. SPECKMAN, formerly engaged in undertaking at New Bremen and now devoting his time to the life insurance and real estate business at that place, was born at New Bremen and has resided there all his life. Mr. Speckman was born on October 14, 1885, and is a son of Fred and Wilhelmina (Rabe) Speckman, both of whom were born at that same place, members of old families there. The late Fred Speckman, concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume, grew up to the mercantile business in New Bremen and was for years engaged in business there, a member of the firm of Speckman & Nieter, predecessors of the present Arcade Department Store Company there, and so continued until his death in 1917. To him and his wife were born eleven children, those besides the subject of this sketch (the fifth in order of birth) being Frank, Edwin (who died in infancy), Luetta, Aurelia, Bertha, Elmer, Viola, Fred, Earl and Catherine. Reared at New Bremen, Irvin J. Speckman completed his schooling in the high school there and then became engaged working in a furniture store, giving his special attention to the undertaking department of that business. Not long afterward he and William Klanke bought this place, the plant of the Klanke Furniture Company, and began doing business as the Klanke-Speckman Company. Three years later Mr. Speckman sold his interest in the furniture department of this concern and took over the undertaking department, which he afterward carried on alone until he sold out in 1920, since which time he has been devoting his attention to the life insurance business, local agent for the Ohio State Life Insurance Company, and to the real estate business, in both of which lines he is doing well. Mr. Speckman is an "independent" Republican, is affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen. Mr. and Mrs. Speckman have a pleasant home at New Bremen and have ever given their earnest attention to the community's general social movements, interested always in such movements as are designed to advance the common welfare. Mrs. Speckman's maiden name was Florence Inderrieden.

LEO ALEXANDER HEINL, of the firm of Heinl & Swonguer, furniture and undertaking, at Wapakoneta, and one of the best known and most alert young business men of that city, was born at Wapakoneta and has lived there all his life, with the exception of some years spent at Dayton, where he perfected himself in the technical details of practical cabinet making in the passenger car department of the car works in that city. Mr. Heinl was born on June 19, 1887, and is a son of Casper J. and Catherine (Brown) Heinl, the latter of whom also was born in Wapakoneta, a member of one of the pioneer families there. The late Casper J. Heinl, who for years was one of the influential factors in the industrial and commercial life of Wapakoneta, also was born in that city, January 18, 1855, and was a son of Anthony and Caroline (Daubner) Heinl, both of whom were of European birth, Bavarians, the former born at Neuban, in the kingdom of Bavaria, April 29, 1818, and the latter at Huettstadl, August 25, 1821, who after their marriage came to America and not long afterward became residents of Wapakoneta, Anthony Heinl presently being made custodian of the old toll-gate house on the Wapakoneta-Sidney pike just at the south edge of town, where he remained for years, and it was there that Casper J. Heinl grew to manhood. When twenty-one years of age, he became employed in the churn factory of the M. Brown Company at Wapakoneta, and so apt did he prove himself in that form of employment that he presently was made foreman of the plant, a position he occupied for more than twenty years, or until in 1894, when he formd a partnership with T. S. Yocum and became engaged in the furniture and undertaking business in Wapakoneta. This arrangement continued for seventeen years or more, or until February 22, 1912, when F. M. Swonguer, who had for years been connected with the undertaking trade at Wapakoneta, took over the Yocum interest in the firm and formed a partnership with Mr. Heinl under the firm name of Heinl & Swonguer, an arrangement which continued until Mr. Heinl's death, in December, 1920, when his sons, Leo A. and Michael O. Heinl, assumed the interest of their deceased father and have since been carrying on the business in association with Mr. Swonguer. Casper J. Heinl was sixty-five years of age at the time of his death and had grown into a very definitely established place in the business life of his home town. For nearly a quarter of a century he had taken his part as a member of the famous old volunteer

C. J. HEINL
A. L. HEINL

L. A. HEINL
M. O. HEINL

fire department, the "Deluge" company, had also served for some time as a member of the city council, and also for years was a member of the school board. He also formerly was a member of the board of directors of the Peoples National Bank, and in other ways was actively interested in the commercial development of the town. He and his wife were members of St. Joseph's Catholic church, and their children were reared in that faith. Casper J. Heinl was twice married. On June 13, 1876, he was united in marriage to Catherine Brown, of Wapakoneta, and to this union were born eleven children, of whom five are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Caroline L. Liethauser, and three brothers, George J., Michael O. and Anthony L. Heinl. The mother of these children died on August 31, 1914, and in 1916 Mr. Heinl married Miss Anna Bury, who survives him. Leo A. Heinl was reared at Wapakoneta, receiving his schooling in St. Joseph's parochial school, and early became trained to practical woodworking. As a young man he went to Dayton and for seven years was employed there as a car builder in the passenger car department of the car shops. Upon his return to Wapakoneta he became connected with the management of the furniture and undertaking establishment which his father had founded there, and upon his father's death, in 1920, he and his brother, Michael O. Heinl, assumed the interest of the deceased, and he thus has since been connected with the establishment with a proprietary interest. Mr. Heinl is a Democrat. Fraternally he is affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus and with the St. Martin's Benevolent Society and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, while he and his wife are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church, and he is secretary of the St. Joseph's Cemetery Association. In 1910 Leo A. Heinl was united in marriage to Emma Schneider, daughter of M. M. Schneider, and to this union three children have been born, Mary C., Casper J. and William E.

ANTHONY L. HEINL, proprietor of a well equipped electrical supplies store at Wapakoneta and formerly engaged in that city as the operator of a moving picture theater, one of the best known young business men in the town, was born at Wapakoneta and has lived there all his life. Mr. Heinl was born on August 10, 1890, and is a son of Casper J. and Catherine (Brown) Heinl, both of whom also were born in Wapakoneta, members of old families there. The late Casper J. Heinl, of whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume, was a son of Anthony and Caroline (Daubner) Heinl, Germans by birth, who were among the pioneers of Wapakoneta, Anthony Heinl, a shoemaker by vocation, having for years kept the toll gate on the old Sidney and Wapakoneta turnpike at the south edge of Wapakoneta, one of the best known figures in the early life of this county. Casper J. Heinl grew up to the wood-

working trades and for twenty years and more was foreman in the plant of the Brown churn and bentwood works, later engaging in the furniture and undertaking business on Auglaize street and continuing in that line until his death in December, 1920, head of the firm of Heinl & Swonguer, which firm continues with his sons, Leo and Michael Heinl, representing the interest formerly and for so long held by him, all of which is set out elsewhere. Anthony L. Heinl was from the days of his boyhood interested in his father's furniture and undertaking establishment and upon completing his schooling in the local schools decided to take up the undertaking line as a profession. With this end in view he took a course in the embalming schools at Columbus and at Cincinnati and then entered his father's establishment to take care of the technical details of the undertaking department and was thus engaged for several years, at the end of which time he became attracted to the possibilities of the motion pictures industry and took up that line in Wapakoneta and for ten years thereafter was thus engaged. In the meantime he had been giving close attention to electrical development as affecting the local field and in 1911 gave up the motion pictures line and opened a store for the sale of general electrical supplies and fixtures on West Auglaize street and has since then been thus engaged, not only having developed a very satisfactory trade along that line but having established a profitable connection as a contractor in house wiring and the like, and is doing well. On May 12, 1914, Anthony L. Heinl was united in marriage to Cora I. Fisher, daughter of William Fisher, of Wapakoneta, and to this union three children have been born, Hilda Mary, Joan C. and Alice Margaret. Mr. and Mrs. Heinl are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church and take an interested part in parish affairs, Mr. Heinl being one of the church wardens. He also is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and of St. Martin's Benevolent Society of the church. He is a member of the Ohio State Embalmers' Society, having retained his interest in the profession to which he formerly devoted himself; is affiliated with the local Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. In his political views he is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. It is a matter of interesting note that little Joan Heinl, Mr. and Mrs. Heinl's second daughter, won one of the first prizes out of 354 entrants in the state baby contest at Columbus in May, 1922, and that her picture thus adorns the "better health" pamphlet issued by the state in that connection.

MICHAEL O. HEINL, of the well known Heinl family and a member of the firm of Heinl & Swonguer, prominent in the furniture and undertaking business and in the general business life of

this commuity was born at Wapakoneta on June 19, 1883, and is a son of the late Casper J. Heinl, who in his generation was an active factor in the broadening of the business and social life of this community. The Heinl family is a pioneer family and for three or four generations has occupied a distinctive position in the development of this county. The first of the forebears of this family in Auglaize county came to this country from Bavaria. Anthony Heinl, the paternal grandfather of Michael Heinl, was born in the kingdom of Bavaria April 29, 1818, and was there married to Caroline Daubner, who was born at Huettstadl, also in the kingdom of Bavaria, August 25, 1821. Not long after their marriage they came to America and located at Wapakoneta. Shortly afterward Anthony Heinl was made keeper of the toll gate at the south edge of town, on the old Wapakoneta and Sidney pike. Casper Heinl, father of Michael O. Heinl, grew to manhood here and was here married to Catherine Brown, daughter of George and Barbara (Conrad) Brown, both members of pioneer families here. About the time Casper Heinl reached his majority he became employed by the M. Brown company, churn manufacturers at Wapakoneta, and subsequently became foreman of that concern, a position which he filled for more than twenty years or until 1894, when in partnership with T. S. Yocum he established a furniture and undertaking business in Wapakoneta. Seventeen years later F. M. Swonguer, who had for years been engaged in the undertaking business in Wapakoneta, took over the Yocum interests, the firm then becoming Heinl & Swonguer, this partnership continuing until the death of Casper Heinl, at which time his sons Leo A. and Michael O. became members of the firm. Michael O. Heinl was educated at St. Joseph's school and as a young man became employed in the churn factory. For some time he was engaged as a driver in the fire department and later was for two years connected with the local agency of the United States Express Company. Meantime he had married and after awhile moved to Tampa, Fla., a change of climate having been recommended in behalf of his wife's health, and in that city became employed in the establishment of the Gooding Undertaking Company. Upon his return to Wapakoneta he took employment in his father's undertaking establishment and so continued until his father's death when he and his brother, Leo, assumed their present proprietary interest in the firm and he has since been thus engaged. On June 11, 1907, Michael O. Heinl was united in marriage to Mayme Black, who died in 1913. She was the only daughter of Daniel and Ida Black. Mr. Heinl is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Wapakoneta and is affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus and with the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

EDWARD MACKENBACH, of the firm of Mackenbach Bros., dealers in lumber and builders supplies, at St. Marys and one of the best known and most energetic business men of that city, was born at St. Marys and has lived there all his life, having literally "grown up" to the business in which he is engaged and which he and his brothers have been carrying on in succession to their father, who established the Mackenbach lumber yard there and carried on the business until his death more than fifteen years ago. Edward Mackenbach was born on October 26, 1881, and is a son of William F. and Julia A. (Wagner) Mackenbach, who were for years well known residents of that city. The late William Frederick Mackenbach, who died at his home in St. Marys in 1906, was a European by birth, born in the city of Cologne, the capital of Rhenish Prussia, March 22, 1826, but had come to this country in the days of his youth and many years ago had become a resident of St. Marys, where after his marriage he had established his home. His wife was born in St. Marys township, in what then was Mercer county, December 8, 1843, that having been about five years before Auglaize county was erected, and her parents were among the influential pioneers of the St. Marys neighborhood. William F. Mackenbach early became engaged in the lumber business at St. Marys and continued thus engaged the rest of his life, his death occurring on July 6, 1906, and the business which he established is still being carried on in the family, the three sons of the founder, William A., August F. and Edward Mackenbach, having taken over the business following their father's death and operating the same under the firm style of Mackenbach Bros. Formerly and for many years the elder Mackenbach operated a saw mill at St. Marys and continued that until the big timber hereabout was pretty well gone, after which he maintained a lumber yard, which in time was extended to include mill lumber and general builders supplies and which under the later management of his sons was further extended to meet the growing demands of modern needs and has thus grown into the considerable enterprise carried on by the present concern, one of the leading industries of the town. On April 13, 1911, Edward Mackenbach was united in marriage to Caroline L. Stearns, who also was born in St. Marys, and to this union two children have been born, Catherine Carmen, born on November 15, 1912, and Elizabeth Jean, November 12, 1917. Mrs. Mackenbach is a daughter of Charles N. and Ellen C. (Fulkerson) Stearns, the latter of whom was born at Newcastle, Pa. Charles N. Stearns was born at St. Marys, a member of one of the old families there. To him and his wife were born six children, all of whom are living, Mrs. Mackenbach having one brother, Harry Stearns, and four sisters, Mrs. Stella Lewis, Mrs. Charles Kraft, Miss Bertha Stearns, who is now a teacher in the college at Laramie, Wyo., and Miss Ethel Stearns,

who is now teaching in the West technical school at Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Mackenbach have a very pleasant home at the corner of Walnut and North streets, St. Marys. They are members of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Mackenbach is a Freemason, attaining to both the chapter and council degrees of that order, at St. Marys, and also is a member of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

HARVEY C. SMITH, former mayor of St. Marys, and one of the well known and progressive figures in the general commercial life of that city, proprietor of a well appointed sales and service garage at 112 South Front street, is a native of the neighboring county of Shelby, but has been a resident of this county and of St. Marys for many years. Mr. Smith was born on a farm in Shelby county on June 10, 1874, and is a son of George W. and Mary (Moothart) Smith, the latter of whom was born in that same county, a member of one of the pioneer families there. George W. Smith was born in Auglaize county, a member of one of the old families here, and was early trained to farming. After his marriage, he established himself on a farm in Shelby county and there spent the remainder of his life. To him and his wife were born three children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Electa, who died at the age of thirty-five years, and Wilbur Smith, of St. Marys. Reared on the home farm in Shelby county, Harvey C. Smith received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and remained at home until he was twenty years of age, when he went over into the neighboring county of Champaign and there became manager of a stock farm. He remained there two years and then returned to his home in Shelby county, but shortly afterward located at St. Marys, where he became engaged as a hub turner in the St. Marys Wheel Works, a position he occupied for about five years, at the end of which time he began to work in a furniture store in that city. Five years later, meanwhile having acquired a thorough knowledge of the furniture business, he became engaged in business on his own account at St. Marys, operating as the Smith Furniture Company, and was thus engaged for about ten years, at the end of which time he sold his place to Mr. Sherman, and in the fall of 1913 went to Oklahoma, locating at Cleveland, where he was made the buyer and cashier for the Murray Machine and Tool Company at that place. Not finding conditions in the West to his liking, Mr. Smith returned to St. Marys about eight months later and became employed as an automobile salesman in the local Ford agency, presently transferring his connection from that concern to the Gordon-Hauss-Folk Company, for which he sold automobiles for about three years, or until 1917, when he decided to take up the automobile business on his own account. With this end in view, he secured the local agency for the sale of the Dodge car and opened a general sales and

service garage at his present location, a most advantageous one, at 112 South Front street, just off of Spring street, where he has done very well, and where he has not only ample storage space, but an opportunity properly to display the comprehensive line of accessories he carries, as well as to maintain a quite centrally located filling station. He has floor space covering a 52-foot front, running back 149 feet, and finds employment for two other salesmen besides himself, two mechanicians and a bookkeeper. Mr. Smith is a Republican and takes a proper interest in local civic affairs. He was elected mayor of the city, running on the "Citizens" ticket, in 1919, and served a very effective term as chief executive. He is also an active member of the St. Marys Chamber of Commerce, is a Freemason, a member of the blue lodge, the chapter and the council of the Masonic order, and is a past noble grand of Shawnee lodge, No. 75, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, at St. Marys, a member of the encampment of that order and a past representative to the grand lodge of the order in this state, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. On September 25, 1899, Harvey C. Smith was united in marriage to Elizabeth Murray, who was born at Dean City, Pa., daughter of Richard H. and Dora Murray, and whose schooling was completed at St. Marys, and to this union two children have been born, Edith, born on July 27, 1900, and James, May 12, 1905, both of whom have been graduated from the St. Marys high school, and the former of whom is now a teacher in the public schools. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have a pleasant home at St. Marys and take a proper part in the general social activities of the city.

JOSEPH B. MILLER, a veteran of the World war with an overseas record, a member of the Wapakoneta city council and proprietor of "The Alpha," a popular house of recreation and bowling alley on Auglaize street, in that city, one of the best known men in Auglaize county, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has been a resident of this state all his life, a resident of Wapakoneta for the past twenty years. Mr. Miller was born in the village of St. Anthony, in the neighboring county of Mercer, February 6, 1883, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Johns) Miller. The late Henry Miller was born on a farm in the vicinity of Wabash, Ind., where he grew to manhood. After his marriage he established his home on a farm of seventy acres which he had bought in the vicinity of St. Anthony, in Mercer county, this state, and was there engaged in farming for some years, at the end of which time he became engaged in the retail liquor business, and was thus engaged, at Chattanooga and at Coldwater, in Mercer county, until his death, which occurred in 1896. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, the subject of this sketch (the fifth in order of birth) having a sister, Elizabeth, and five brothers, Henry, John, Frank, William and Peter

Miller. William Miller is a veteran of the World war with an overseas record. His service was in the infantry, and he lost a leg in the fierce fighting in the Argonne forest. When he was but a child, Joseph B. Miller was taken into the home of an uncle at Sidney, Ohio, and it was thus that in this city he received his schooling. When sixteen years of age, he began to "do for himself," becoming variously employed, and for four years during seasons made a part of a threshing-machine crew. In 1917 he was called into the service of the army and was sent to Camp Gordon, Georgia. After some preliminary training there in the Officers' Training Corps, he was sent to France with the detachment to which he was attached, his first station being at Chardain, then Soissons, then Lemans. Mr. Miller was in service for fourteen months and twenty-four days, eleven months of which service was rendered overseas. Upon his return to Wapakoneta, he bought "The Alpha," a popular bowling alley and billiard emporium, on Auglaize street, and is doing well in the business. Mr. Miller is a Democrat and has for years taken an interested part in local politics, at present serving as the representative of the Third ward in the city council. He is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church and is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, and the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. In November, 1919, Joseph B. Miller was united in marriage to Nell Schockey, daughter of James Schockey, of Wapakoneta, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Joseph.

HARRY B. DINGLER, D. C., who until quite recently was the only doctor of chiropractic in Wapakoneta, was born in that city and has resided there all his life. Doctor Dingler was born on December 16, 1890, and is a son of Dr. Charles E. and Alice (Sebring) Dingler, both of whom were born in Montgomery county, this state. Dr. Charles E. Dingler, a retired veterinary surgeon, now living in Wapakoneta, has been a resident of that city for many years, having located there in the practice of veterinary surgery not long after his marriage. Of the children born to him and his wife, six are living, Dr. H. B. Dingler having one sister, Florence, and four brothers, Wilbur, Charles, Edward L. and Ferd L. Dingler. Reared at Wapakoneta, Harry B. Dingler received his schooling there, and after leaving high school adopted the trade of barber and for about six years followed the same. In the meantime he had become attracted to the growing call for chiropractic practitioners and he presently entered the National College of Chiropractic, from which after a three-year course he received his degree of D. C. on May 18, 1916. Thus qualified for the profession to which he had devoted his life, Doctor Dingler returned home and at Wapakoneta opened an

office for the practice of his profession and has ever since been thus engaged. He was the first practitioner of this school to locate in Wapakoneta, and his success, which was assured from the beginning, has been the subject of congratulation on the part of his friends. The Doctor is a Democrat, a member of the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, of the Loyal Order of Moose and of the Modern Woodmen of America, and he and his wife are members of the English Lutheran church. On May 12, 1910, Dr. H. B. Dingler was united in marriage to Marie Britton, also of Wapakoneta, daughter of Joseph and Mary Britton, and to this union two children have been born, Mary Maxine and Ned Britton.

JOSEPH BROCKIE, who as proprietor of the handle factory at New Bremen had for some years definitely impressed himself upon the industrial life of that community, and who died in 1918, was not a native son of Auglaize county, but during the time of his residence here had devoted himself so energetically to the affairs of this county that it is considered to be but proper and fitting that there should here be carried in the history of the county in which he had elected to make his home a review of his career here, together with a modest tribute to the good memory he left at his passing. Mr. Brockie was born at Kalamazoo, Mich., March 16, 1865, and was a son of John and Hannah (Steel) Brockie. He received his schooling in the schools of that city and of Jackson, Mich., and remained at home with his parents until he was about eighteen years of age, when he started out "on his own" to learn the lumber business. By the time he had attained his majority he had acquired a good working knowledge of that business by practical application to the details of both mill and timber operations, and then was made a timber buyer, a vocation he followed for twelve or fourteen years, at the end of which time he located at Columbia City, Ind., as manager of the Peabody mills at that place. About two years later he acquired an interest in the business of the Peabody Bros. Company, and he maintained that connection until in 1911, when he disposed of his interests at La Fontaine, Ind., and in association with Mr. Hawks bought the plant of the Bell Handle Company at New Bremen and entered upon the active management of that concern, thereafter making his home at New Bremen. About a year later he bought the interest of his partner in this concern, and thereafter carried on the business alone, manufacturing farm tools and broom handles, and was so occupied until his death in 1918. Mr. Brockie was a Republican and had rendered public service as a member of the New Bremen town council, giving his earnest attention to local civic affairs. He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is his widow, and was a Scottish Rite Mason, a Knight Templar and a noble of the Ancient Arabic

JOSEPH W. BROCKIE

Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Brockie has continued to make her home at New Bremen, where she is very pleasantly situated. She was born Rosa Hinckley and is a daughter of Dwight and Sarah (Buck) Hinkley, who at the time of her marriage were residents of Jackson, Mich. She has one child, a son, John Brockie, aged thirteen.

ERNST H. MOELLER, a well-known and substantial landowner and retired farmer of Auglaize county, now living at New Bremen, former member of the board of township trustees of German township and a former member of the New Bremen town council, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Moeller was born on a farm in German township on August 9, 1855, and is therefore now in the sixty-eighth year of his age and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development which has marked this region during the past half century and more. His parents, Herman and Liesette (Wiehe) Moeller, both were born in Germany and had come here with their respective parents in the days of their youth, both the Moellers and the Wiehes having settled in German township among the large number of families of German origin which established themselves there during the '30s and '40s of the past century. Herman Moeller was but a lad when he came here, and he grew to manhood in German township, and after his marriage established his home there. For some years he operated a lime kiln in the vicinity of New Bremen, and then bought a farm of 120 acres in that neighborhood and took up practical farming. He prospered in his farming and added to his holdings until he became the owner of 400 acres and was accounted one of the substantial men of his community. Upon retiring from the active operations of the farm he moved to New Bremen and there spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Minnie, wife of Charles Haseker; Mary, who married George Newman, and Martha, who married John Quellhorst, and five brothers, Henry, Chris, William, Cort and Fred Moeller. The late Mrs. Sophia Poppe, wife of Jacob Poppe, was another sister. Reared on the home farm in German township, Ernst H. Moeller received his schooling in the schools of New Bremen and continued farming with his father until after his marriage, when he bought a farm of 100 acres in St. Marys township and there established his home. He later bought an adjacent tract of ten acres, and still later a tract of eighty acres, giving him 190 acres in his home farm, besides which he also at one time had an additional tract of forty-six acres, or 236 acres in all, and still retains his 190-acre farm in St. Marys township, which is well improved and profitably cultivated. Mr. Moeller continued farming on that place until

his retirement from the active operations of the farm, when he moved to New Bremen, where he is now living, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Moeller is an "independent" Democrat and has for years given his interested attention to local civic affairs. For four years he served as a trustee of German township, for four years was a member of the New Bremen town council, and has in other ways demonstrated his intelligent interest in public affairs. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church, and he was for four years a member of the board of trustees of that congregation. Ernst H. Miller married Sophia Dicke, a daughter of Cort and Wilhelmina (Hartman) Dicke, also members of old families in German township, and to this union five children were born, three of whom grew to maturity, Lafe, Edwin and Freda, the latter of whom married Tod Taylor, and has one child, a daughter, Mary Jane. Lafe Moeller married Lena Doyse, and has three children, Ada, Paul and Irene. Edwin Moeller married Hilda Weikes, and has five children, Hazel, Larue, Wilhelmina, Richard and Robert.

DR. GEORGE S. PLACE, a veteran of the World war and a well-known young veterinary surgeon at St. Marys, was born on a farm in Logan township, this county, October 20, 1892, and is a son of Seymour and Elizabeth (Wiesenmayer) Place, the latter of whom was born in the neighboring county of Allen. Seymour Place was born in Logan township and is a member of one of the pioneer families of that part of the county. Reared on the home farm, Doctor Place completed his public schooling in the Spencerville schools, being graduated from the high school there in 1912, and then in due time entered the veterinary college of Ohio State University, from which, after a three years' course, he was graduated in 1917. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Place opened an office for the practice of his profession at Spencerville, but about three months later, in September, 1917, entered the service of the National army for participation in the World war and was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Veterinary Corps of the army and assigned to Camp Taylor for service in the 84th Division. Eighteen months later he was assigned to take charge of the veterinary base hospital at Camp Hill, Newport News, Va., and three months later was assigned to the veterinary hospital at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma, where he remained until he received his honorable discharge, in July, 1919. Upon the completion of his military service, Doctor Place returned to Spencerville, and shortly after came to St. Marys, where he since has been engaged in practice and has become well established. The Doctor is a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association, a member of the local post of the American Legion at St. Marys and a Democrat. He is a Freemason, a member of the blue lodge of that order at Spencerville and the chapter and council of the order at St.

Marys, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, retaining their membership with the Zion church at Spencerville. On December 24, 1917, Dr. George S. Place was united in marriage to Mildred Mack, who also was born in this county, daughter of William and Lydia (Fischer) Mack, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Robert, born on September 6, 1919. Doctor and Mrs. Place have a pleasant home at St. Marys and take an interested part in the general social activities of the community.

HARRY SHANNON, head of the Shannon Players, a theatrical company widely known throughout the Middle West, is a New Englander by birth, but an Ohioan by choice, and has been a resident of this county since 1913, in which year he settled down at Wapakoneta, to which place he and his family had become greatly attached by reason of repeated professional appearances there. Mr. Shannon was born at Hampstead, N. H., August 8, 1867, and was reared there, receiving his schooling in the local schools. He early became attracted to the theatrical profession, and when little more than a boy made his first professional appearance with a stock company at Boston. With this company he travelled all over the East, gaining a practical experience that later proved of great value when he decided to put a company of his own "on the road." After some years as an actor with stock companies, Mr. Shannon further enlarged his practical experience by becoming engaged as the advance representative of a theatrical company, and after the organization of his own company made his headquarters at Luddington, Mich., touring the South during the winters and the states of the Middle West during the summers. There he remained for ten years, at the end of which time, in 1913, he located at Wapakoneta, where he and his family are now very comfortably situated, having a pleasant home along the river bank on West Auglaize street. It was in 1892 that Mr. Shannon started in business for himself, and since then the name of the Shannon Players has become a familiar one throughout a wide territory. Before locating at Luddington, Mr. Shannon confined his engagements principally to the towns of the New England states. At present he is confining his summer engagements to Ohio, making week stands in county seat towns, his repertoire of plays including the popular favorites. Mr. Shannon has a well selected company, the Shannon Players now including a troupe of thirty persons, traveling by auto train, this automotive equipment including seven trucks, six trailers and two touring cars. The tent equipment, stage paraphernalia and wardrobe carried by the company are of the best, and the high character of the performances given is attested by the fact that the Shannon Players always are welcomed back for return engagements wherever they have appeared. Harry Shannon was united in marriage to Lorene Stoutenburg, and to this

union two children have been born, a son, Harry Shannon, Jr., who is the assistant manager of the Shannon Players, and who under the careful direction of his father, has made a name for himself on the stage, and a daughter, Hazel Shannon. Mr. Shannon is a Scottish Rite (32°) Mason and is a member of the Wapakoneta lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

DR. THEODORE A. CAMPBELL, M. D., a veteran of the World war, a lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the United States army, and a well-known practicing physician of this county, with offices at Wapakoneta, where he has been located for the past twenty-five years, is a native son of Auglaize county and has resided here all his life. Doctor Campbell was born on a farm in Goshen township on January 2, 1875, and is a son of George and Sarah (Chiles) Campbell, the latter of whom was reared on a farm in that same neighborhood, a member of the pioneer Chiles family of that section of the county. George Campbell was a Virginian by birth and was but three years of age when his parents moved from Virginia to Ohio and settled on a farm in the vicinity of Columbus, in Franklin county. There George Campbell grew to manhood, becoming a practical farmer, and before he had reached his majority came to Auglaize county and began farming in Union township. After his marriage there he established his home on a farm in section 35 of that township, along the line between Union and Clay townships, and in time became the owner of a farm of 240 acres, where he spent his last days, his death occurring on May 4, 1885. To him and his wife were born six children, of whom three are still living, Doctor Campbell having a sister, Zelia, and a brother, Guy Campbell. The deceased children of this family were Viola, Elsie and Tyra. Reared on the home farm in Union township, where his mother continued to make her home after her husband's death, Doctor Campbell attended the schools of that neighborhood for a short time and then entered the Wapakoneta schools, and in due time was graduated from the high school there. He then entered the medical college of the University of Cincinnati, and in 1897, when twenty-two years of age, was graduated from that institution. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Campbell returned home and in that same year opened an office for the practice of his profession at Uniopolis. Five months later he closed that office and moved to Wapakoneta, where he ever since has been engaged in practice. During the time of America's participation in the World war, Doctor Campbell offered his services, and on October 1, 1918, was commissioned first lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the army and was sent to the medical detachment at Camp Greenleaf, Georgia. Ten days later he was assigned to the Greenhut Hospital, at Hoboken, for service in the escort detachment of the army, and there served until his honorable discharge on

DR. THEODORE A. CAMPBELL

July 1, 1919, the war then being over. His particular service while in New York was as an evacuation officer, inspector of soldiers at disembarkation hospitals as to their fitness for travel, and as escort it was his duty to supervise their medical treatment until they had reached inland hospitals. Upon the completion of his military service, Doctor Campbell returned home and resumed his practice at Wapakoneta. The Doctor is a Democrat. He is a member of the local post of the American Legion and is also affiliated with the local organizations of the Woodmen of the World, the Modern Woodmen, the Woodmen's Circle and the Modern Brotherhood of America. Doctor Campbell has been thrice married. In August, 1895, he was united in marriage to Virgie Williams, who died in February, 1896, and in October, 1897, he married Blanche Jarman. To this union two children were born, Pera and Zenith, the latter of whom is now attending college at Defiance. Miss Zenith Campbell holds what is said to be an absolutely unprecedented record of school attendance, having never been tardy nor absent or missed a recitation in all her school course. Miss Pera Campbell, now a teacher in the Wapakoneta high school, is a graduate of Defiance College and was president of the senior class during her last year there. Mrs. Blanche Campbell died in 1911, and in 1912 Doctor Campbell married Emma Flory. The Campbells have a pleasant home at Wapakoneta and take an interested part in the city's general social activities.

CHARLES J. DICKMAN, well-known grocer at St. Marys and for more than ten years recognized as one of the most energetic and progressive business men of that city, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county, and has resided here most of his life. Mr. Dickman was born on a farm in St. Marys township on October 4, 1877, and is a son of Fred and Dorothy (Haesieker) Dickman, both of whom also were born and reared in this county, members of old families in the New Bremen neighborhood. The late Fred Dickman, an honored veteran of the Civil war, was reared on a farm and when the Civil war broke out enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of the 36th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which gallant command he served for three years. He came through the ordeal of battle without injury, but on the way home the train in which he was riding was wrecked and he received an injury to one of his legs which crippled him the remainder of his life. Upon the completion of his military service, Fred Dickman returned to the home farm and received from his father a tract of eighty acres of uncleared land in section 29 of St. Marys township, where he established his home and in due time made a good farm out of the place. And there he spent the remainder of his ilfe, one of the useful and influential citizens of that com-

munity. To him and his wife were born ten children, all of whom are living save Emil, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Emma, Henry, William, Mollie, Herbert, Mary, Minnie and Omer. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, Charles J. Dickman received his schooling in the old Graybill school (district No. 8) and remained at home until he was eighteen years of age, when he joined his elder brother, Henry Dickman, who had become engaged in business at Elmwood, Neb., and for fifteen months assisted the latter in his general store there. He then returned to Ohio and for nine months thereafter was engaged in driving a dairy wagon at Van Wert, after which he returned to the home farm and resumed his place on the farm, remaining there until his marriage two years later, when he became employed in the Klanke furniture factory at New Bremen. Eight months later he took employment with the Ohio Oil Company, and for seven years thereafter was engaged in the field operations of this concern in this territory, remaining with the oil "game" until 1911, in which year he bought the grocery store at the corner of Spring and Main streets, at St. Marys, where he has since been engaged in business, and in which city he since has made his home, he and his family being very comfortably situated there. Mr. Dickman has a peculiarly advantageous location for a grocery store and during the time he has been proprietor of this place has done much to bring the establishment up to the standards required by the modern trade, so that he has a very well equipped and thoroughly stocked store and is doing well in business, carrying on in strictly up-to-date fashion. Mr. Dickman is a Republican, and he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. On Christmas Day, 1901, Charles J. Dickman was united in marriage to Mary Kamman, who was born in the neighboring county of Mercer, daughter of August and Catherine (Timmermeister) Kamman, and who was but six years of age when her parents moved to this county and located at New Bremen, where she was reared and where she received her schooling. Mr. and Mrs. Dickman have one child, a son, Sylvanus Dickman, born at St. Marys on September 6, 1903, who is now a student in the Capital University at Columbus, Ohio.

HENRY BROCKMAN, a well-known and substantial landowner and retired farmer of the adjoining county of Mercer, now living at New Bremen, where he has made his home for the past five years and more, is a native son of Auglaize county, and upon his retirement from the active labors of the farm was quite content to return to this county to "settle down." Mr. Brockman was born on a pioneer farm in St. Marys township, this county, March 8, 1856, and is a son of Herman and Mary (Barnbroek) Brockman, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families

in German township. Herman Brockman was born in Germany and was but a child when he came to this country with his parents, Henry Brockman and wife, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and settling in what later came to be organized as Auglaize county, being here when work on the canal was begun in the late '30s. When but eight years of age, Herman Brockman got a "job" on the canal work, driving a horse to a dump car, and his youth was spent pretty largely working in connection with canal activities, as he grew older becoming employed as a boatman, and he continued thus employed until he had earned a sufficient fund to buy a farm, when he began farming, and was thus engaged the rest of his active life. He bought a farm in the southwest corner of St. Marys township, in section 31, and that was his established home until he retired and moved to town, where his last days were spent. To him and his wife were born eight children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Caroline and Regina, and three brothers, William, Fred and Ben Brockman. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, Henry Brockman received his schooling in the neighborhood school in the adjacent township of German, and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing the farm. After his marriage, his father aided him in the matter of the purchase of a farm of eighty acres over in Marion township, in the adjacent county of Mercer, and he established his home there. This was a practically unimproved farm, but he finally got it cleared and drained and got up a good set of farm buildings, and as his affairs prospered added an adjoining tract of twenty acres, and thus had a good farm of 100 acres. There he made his home, actively engaged in farming, until 1917, when he retired from the farm and moved to New Bremen, where he built a comfortable home, and where he has since resided after a period of thirty-six years on the farm. Mr. Brockman is a Republican and has for many years taken an interested part in local political affairs. For some time during his residence in Mercer county he served as chairman of the Republican central committee of that township and was long looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in that county. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen. Henry Brockman married Louise Bertke, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, and to that union two children were born, Ida, who married Emil Vornhold, and Benjamin, who married Evelyn Rump, and has one child, a son, Earl. Mrs. Louise Brockman was born in German township and is a daughter of Rudolph and Caroline (Bockelman) Bertke, both natives of Germany, but who were married in this county. Rudolph Bertke was twenty years of age when he came to this country, landing at Baltimore. He presently located at Richmond, Ind., but not long after-

ward came over here and settled in German township, this county, where after his marriage he established his home, becoming the owner of a farm of ninety-two acres in section 6, where he remained actively engaged in farming until his retirement and removal to New Bremen, where his last days were spent. Rudolph Bertke was twice married. By his first wife, Engel Jergens, he was the father of three children, of whom but one, Henry Bertke, is now living. By his marriage to Caroline Bockelman he had nine children, five of whom are living, Mrs. Brockman having a sister, Ella, and three brothers, Fred, Edward and Gustave Bertke.

FRED A. DECURTINS, architect at Wapakoneta, was born in the village of Carthagena, in the neighboring county of Mercer, but he is a representative in the third generation of the DeCurtins family of architects that has created its impress upon Wapakoneta. His grandfather, Frederick DeCurtins, was the architect who designed the first Catholic church erected in Wapakoneta, St. Joseph's first edifice. His uncle, Andrew DeCurtins, was the architect who designed the present handsome St. Joseph's church in that city, and he, in the third generation, in the summer of 1922, was the architect who designed the plans which entered into the extensive remodeling of St. Joseph's parish house, an improvement which has done much to add to the appearance of the valuable church property there. Mr. DeCurtins has not long been a resident of Wapakoneta, but during the time of this residence he has succeeded in creating his impress upon the community, for much building has been going on there of late and his architectural skill has entered into no small part of this. Mr. DeCurtins was born at Carthagena on May 19, 1888, and is the son and only child of John R. and Elizabeth (Mestemaker) DeCurtins, who later became residents of Celina, where the former met an untimely end in a railway accident in 1898. The late John R. DeCurtins was born at Wapakoneta and was a son of Frederick A. DeCurtins, a Swiss architect, who had located there in pioneer days and whose skill as an architect is reflected in some of the old buildings which have withstood the march of modern progress in that city. This Swiss emigrant, Frederick A. DeCurtins, was well trained in his art in his native Switzerland, and when nineteen years of age came to this country and was for some time thereafter located at Cincinnati, where he was engaged as an architect and organ builder, later coming up into this part of the state and for a time making his headquarters at Wapakoneta, but later moved over into the western county, where his last days were spent. His son, John R. DeCurtins, was born at Wapakoneta and was but a lad when his parents moved over to Carthagena, where he was reared amid the influences of the great church school there, and where, under the capable preceptorship of their father, he and his brother were trained in the art of

FRED A. DeCURTINS

architectural design, later making their offices at Celina. John R. DeCurtins made a specialty of church architecture, and his skill along that line is reflected in the numerous handsome church edifices whose spires rise in the villages and towns of Mercer county. Fred A. DeCurtins was but ten years of age when his father met his untimely death in 1898. Upon completing the course in the local church school at Celina, he entered St. Joseph's College, at Rensselaer, Ind., and after a three years' course of instruction there entered the architectural college of Cornell University, and there two years later was granted his degree. Thus equipped and prepared for the profession to which he had devoted himself, he returned to Ohio and was employed in an architect's office at Dayton until 1920, in which year he moved to Wapakoneta and has since been engaged there as a practical architect. On October 14, 1914, Fred A. DeCurtins was united in marriage to Margaret Will, daughter of John and Helen (Fortman) Will, of Celina, and to this union five children have been born, Albert and Arthur (twins), Ralph, Frederick and Annabel. Mr. and Mrs. DeCurtins are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church, and Mr. DeCurtins is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at Wapakoneta. Among the recent examples of Mr. DeCurtins' architectural skill may be mentioned the striking Barbara Anne Court apartment house at Lima, which he designed. Some others of the products of his general architectural work include the extensive remodeling of the Fred Burden residence, designs for the Dr. Edgar Martin residence, and the residence of R. W. Kuhlman, at New Knoxville, and others of local note.

HERBERT C. QUELLHORST, a well-known young business man of St. Marys, proprietor of a well-established confectionery on Spring street, in that city, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Quellhorst was born on a farm in St. Marys township on Christmas Day, 1893, and is a son of Florence and Caroline (Finke) Quellhorst, both of whom were born in that same township, members of pioneer families there. Florence Quellhorst, a substantial landowner of St. Marys township, has followed farming all his life and is the proprietor of an excellent farm of 180 acres. To him and his wife two sons were born, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Elvin Quellhorst. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, Herbert C. Quellhorst received his schooling in the district school in that neighborhood, the Huenke school, and remained on the farm with his father until 1915, when he became employed in the power plant of the Western Ohio Electric railway at St. Marys, where he remained about twenty-two months, at the end of which time he took employment as a motorman on that road, and in this capacity worked for six months. He then became employed in the plant of the Quick Work Company at St.

Marys and continued thus engaged until in December, 1921, when he bought the confectionery at 216 West Spring street, in that city, and has since been engaged in business there. In addition to a general line of confections, Mr. Quellhorst also has a cigar stand in his place and the establishment is operated along strictly up-to-date lines. Mr. Quellhorst is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce and takes an active and interested part in the deliberations of that influential body. In his political views he is a Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. On January 6, 1915, Herbert C. Quellhorst was united in marriage to Leah Koebel, who also was born in St. Marys township, daughter of William and Mary (Henning) Koebel, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Dorothy E., born on September 23, 1918.

CHARLES W. KOCH, formerly and for years engaged in the saloon business at St. Marys, and now proprietor of a soft drink establishment and delicatessen there, one of the best known men in that city, is a native Buckeye and has been a resident of this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county most of the time since the days of his boyhood, and of St. Marys for many years. Mr. Koch was born in the village of Bettsville, in Seneca county, January 29, 1873, and is a son of John M. and Mary (Miller) Koch, both of whom were of European birth, the former born in Limbach, Prussia, and the latter in Aunsbach, Bavaria. She was but four years of age when she came to this country with her parents, her family settling in the Fremont neighborhood in this state. The late John M. Koch, a veteran of the Civil war, whose last days were spent at St. Marys, grew to manhood in his native Prussia, learning there the shoemaker's trade, and was twenty-four years of age when he came to this country. He proceeded on out into Ohio and located in the neighborhood of Fremont, where he opened a shoe shop. About a year later the Civil war broke out and he lost little time in enlisting his services in behalf of the cause of the Union, entering the service on June 8, 1861, and going to the front with the 8th regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which gallant command he served until he received his honorable discharge. Though this regiment is said to have suffered more losses than any other Ohio regiment and was in many a hard-fought battle, the fortunes of war favored Mr. Koch and he came through without injury. Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. Koch returned to Fremont and not long afterward was married there. He continued to make his home at that place until about 1870, when he moved to Bettsville, where he remained until 1881, when he came with his family to this county and located at Wapakoneta. His wife died there on January 8, 1889, and he continued to make his home there until in 1902, when he moved to St. Marys, and in the home of his son, Charles, spent the

remainder of his life, his death occurring there on June 19, 1910. His body was taken to Wapakoneta for interment. To John M. Koch and wife were born nine children, four of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having three brothers, Albert M., Louis H. and Frank J. Koch. Charles W. Koch was about eight years of age when his parents moved to Wapakoneta, and he completed his schooling in the schools of that city. When little more than a boy he went to Sidney and found employment there, shining shoes and doing such work as a boy of that age could do, and after awhile became assistant to the bartender in a saloon in that city, thus learning a trade in which he afterward became very proficient. After spending three years at Sidney, he went to Cincinnati, and was there engaged as a bartender for five years, at the end of which time he returned to Auglaize county and located at St. Marys, where he ever since has made his home. For something more than three years after locating at St. Marys, Mr. Koch was employed there as a bartender, and then he formed a partnership with George Collins and for nearly fourteen years was engaged with the latter in the saloon business. This partnership was dissolved in 1913, and Mr. Koch then became engaged in business on his own account, opening a saloon in the room he still occupies in the Diehl block, on West Spring street. When the liquor business was put out of commission following the promulgation of the Eighteenth amendment to the Federal constitution in 1920, Mr. Koch converted his place into a soft drink establishment and delicatessen, and has since continued in business, doing well in his new line. Mr. Koch is a Democrat, and he and his family are members of Holy Rosary Catholic church at St. Marys. He is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, is a charter member of Auglaize Aerie No. 767 of the Fraternal Order of Eagles of that city, and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. On September 13, 1899, Charles W. Koch was united in marriage to Susie Kinstle, who was born in Clay township, this county, a daughter of Sylvester and Anna (Krabach) Kinstle, and to this union six children have been born, Charles F., Edith E., Louise A., John F., George and James, the two latter of whom are attending the Catholic parochial school. Louise A. and John F. Koch are attending high school, the former a member of the class of 1923, and the latter of the class of 1925. Edith E. Koch was graduated from the St. Marys high school in 1920, and supplemented this by a business course in the Littleford Commercial College at Cincinnati. Following his graduation from the parochial school at St. Marys, Charles F. Koch entered St. Joseph's College at Rensselaer, Ind., and after a four years' course there was graduated. Meantime he had been giving attention to his art studies, and upon leaving St. Joseph's College entered Eden Park

Art Institute at Cincinnati. After a year there, he entered the Academy of Fine Arts at Chicago, at the same time entering for a night course in the Art Institute, and in 1922 was graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts. He is employed in art work at Chicago and is still pursuing his studies in the Art Institute in that city.

GEORGE WASHINGTON MILLER, an honored veteran of the Civil war and a well-known retired farmer of this county, now living at Wapakoneta, where he has resided for the past twenty years, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county for nearly fifty years. Mr. Miller was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Franklin, in Warren county, this state, in 1844, and is the son and only child of Wesley and Mary (Creager) Miller, members of old families in that neighborhood. Wesley Miller was born in Warren county and was reared to farming. For some time after his marriage he continued to make his home in the Franklin neighborhood, and then bought and moved onto a farm of seventy-five acres in the vicinity of Bellefontaine, in Logan county. Mr. Miller's mother's last days were spent in California, where she died in 1900. Her husband died in 1901. George W. Miller early began "looking out for himself," at the age of ten years beginning to work for neighboring farmers in Warren county, making his home with a contractor, for whom he also worked, and was thus employed when the Civil war broke out. At the age of eighteen he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company A of the 79th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and served with this gallant command until honorably discharged at Washington, D. C., in May, 1865, the war then being over. During this period of service he participated in many of the notable engagements of the war, including the battles of Nashville, Stone River, Murfreesboro, Chattanooga, Resaca and Savannah, and was twice wounded, once in the temple at the battle of Resaca. Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. Miller returned to Warren county and began working as a teamster on public works. He married in the following year and for two years thereafter continued working on public works and then began farming in Warren county. Seven years later he came to Auglaize county with his family and established his home on the old VanHorn farm, south of Wapakoneta, where he remained for twenty-five years, or until 1902, when he and his wife moved to town and have since resided at Wapakoneta, now having a pleasant home at 110 East Pearl street. Mr. Miller is a Republican and for some time during his residence on the farm served as a member of the Duchouquet township school board. He is a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist church. Mrs. Miller also is affiliated with the Woman's Relief Corps and with the Ladies

GEORGE W. MILLER AND FAMILY

of the Maccabees and the Pythian Sisters. It was in 1866, the year following his return from the army, that George W. Miller was united in marriage to Amanda A. Catterlin, daughter of Strawder and Mary (Cruzen) Catterlin, the latter of whom was born in Greene county, this state, daughter of Cornelius and Hannah (Sheeley) Cruzen. There were nine children in the Catterlin family, five sons and four daughters, and of these but two now survive, Mrs. Miller and her brother, John Strawder Catterlin, of St. Marys. The mother of these children died in 1885, and the father in 1905. To Mr. and Mrs. Miller eight children have been born, namely: Anna, wife of William P. Wellington, of Wapakoneta; Ora, deceased; Clayton, deceased; Minnie, deceased; Charles, who is now living in Detroit, Mich.; Barton, who lives on a farm east of Wapakoneta; Harry, who is employed with the Western Ohio Electric Railway Company, and Bernard, deceased.

CHRIST GIESEKE, a well-known and substantial retired farmer and landowner, now living at New Bremen, where he has made his home for some years past, is a native son of Auglaize county who spent the most of the active period of his life over in the neighboring county of Mercer, but who was quite content to return to this county when he found himself in a position to consider his work days over, finding it very pleasant to settle down here in the "evening time" of his life. Mr. Gieseke was born in German township, this county, January 22, 1858, and is a son of William and Margaret (Scherehholt) Gieseke, the latter of whom also was born in this state, daughter of one of the early settlers over in Mercer county. William Gieseke was born in Germany and was but a lad of ten or twelve years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family coming on out into Ohio and settling in the New Bremen settlement, and he grew up in that neighborhood, working as a farmhand and as a driver on the canal. After his marriage he continued to make his home in this county until about 1864, when he bought a farm of eighty acres in Mercer county and there established his home. He proved to be a good farmer, and as he improved the place he also gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of 240 acres and was accounted one of the substantial men of his community. On that farm he made his home until his retirement from active labors, when he returned to New Bremen and there spent the remainder of his life. To him and his wife were born five children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Emma, and a brother, John Gieseke. Christ Gieseke was about six years of age when his parents moved from New Bremen to Mercer county, and he was reared on the farm in that county, receiving his schooling in the schools of the neighborhood in which his parents had settled. He remained at

home until after his marriage, when he established his home on an unimproved tract of eighty acres north of Celina which his father had given him. This was a timber tract, uncleared and undrained, and Mr. Gieseke had his work cut out for him in bringing the place under cultivation, but he got it done in good time, erected a substantial set of farm buildings, and was for years there engaged in farming, making that place his home until his retirement from the farm in 1909 and removal to New Bremen, where he since has resided. Mr. Gieseke sold his farm upon moving to town, but has since then bought another eighty on the county line, a very good place. During the time of his residence in Mercer county, Mr. Gieseke gave proper attention to civic affairs, and for some time served as superintendent of highways in his home township. In his political views he reserves the right to "independence." He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and he is the present president of the church board. Christ Gieseke married Amelia Backhaus, daughter of Fred Backhaus, and to this union eight children have been born, seven of whom are living, Ida, Carl, Edward, Rosa, Theo, Lydia and Emma, all of whom are married save Ida and Emma. Carl Gieseke married Clara Nieter. Edward Gieseke married Emma Clark, and has three children, Edward, Emma and Robert. Rosa Gieseke married John Downey, and has three children, William, Emma and Edward. Theo Gieseke married Lena Brockman, and has one child, Blanche, and Lydia Gieseke married Howard Copp, and has one child, Margaret.

JOHN LINTZ, an honored veteran of the Civil war and a retired brick mason living at St. Marys, where he has made his home since the days of his boyhood, living in the house his father built there in 1844, has witnessed the growth of that town and the development of this county since pioneer days; indeed, since the days before Auglaize county was erected, and has many interesting stories to tell of the days that long have gone. He came here about the time of the opening of the canal and took a part in the enthusiastic ceremonies which attended the arrival of the first boat at St. Marys. He did his part as a builder in the days of the "boom" which followed the coming of the canal and in another generation did also his part in the building program which followed the rebuilding of the town following the oil boom in the late '80s and during the '90s. For more than three years he gave his services to his country as a soldier of the Union during the days of the Civil war. His brother, Adam Lintz, also a soldier of the Union, was taken prisoner by the enemy and by them starved to death in the unspeakable Libby prison. Mr. Lintz at the age of ninety years can look back over this long period of development and tell how much of it was accomplished. He has seen this work done and in the calm retrospect of the present days of his quiet retirement takes satisfaction in the thought that it was

well done. John Lintz was born in the city of Baltimore, Md., November 28, 1832, and is a son of Adam and Dorothy (Beam) Lintz, both of whom were born in Germany but had come to this country in the days of their youth. Adam Lintz grew up in his native land and then came to America to join an elder brother who had preceded him here. Not long after coming here he married in Baltimore and there he and his wife made their home until after two children had been born to them. They then decided to come West and with a horse and wagon started on the long trip to Ohio, locating at Springfield. Adam Lintz was a plasterer and conditions just then at Springfield did not seem quite so promising to him as they were at Dayton, so he presently moved to the latter city and there remained until the canal project over in this part of the state gave promise of much building in and about St. Marys and while that work was under way moved with his family to St. Marys and there in 1844 put up a house—the house in which his son John is now living, though the latter long ago had it remodeled along modern lines, making a very comfortable place of it. In that home Adam Lintz and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, useful citizens of the community which they helped to build up. They were the parents of five children, of whom the subject of this sketch alone now survives. John Lintz was but a lad when his parents moved from Dayton to St. Marys and in the little old subscription school which stood along the river bank in the latter town he completed what schooling he got. His father early taught him his branch of the building trades and as a youth and young man he worked alongside his father as a plasterer and was thus engaged at St. Marys when the Civil war broke out. He at once enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went out with the company that Capt. Samuel Mott organized at St. Marys—Company C of the 31st Ohio Volunteer Infantry—and with that gallant command served for three years and sixteen days or until his honorable discharge at Atlanta, Ga., in 1864. With this command he participated in several of the important engagements of the war and at the battle of Chickamauga received a severe bullet wound in the leg. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Lintz returned home and resumed his work in association with his father and so continued until his marriage at the age of thirty-eight, when he started out as a contractor in the brick-mason line on his own account, a vocation he followed for several years and then went into the Gordon mill and became a flour miller. He worked fifteen years for Robert Gordon and continued on at the mill for a year after Gordon sold to Gibson, after which he resumed his calling as a brick mason and was so occupied until his retirement when the encroachment of years warned him that he had been working long enough. It was in 1906 that Mr. Lintz retired and since

then he has been "taking things easy." On May 29, 1869, John Lintz was united in marriage to Dorothy Kappel, who was born on a farm about two miles east of New Bremen in this county, daughter of Jacob and Margaret (Keller) Kappel, and to this union ten children were born, all of whom are living save one, a son, George, who died when a child, the others being Katherine, Elizabeth, Dora, Edith, John, Minnie, Lafayette, Laura and Charles, the last named of whom married Jessie Bates and is now living at Sidney, where he is employed as a machinist. Laura Lintz is employed at the Armstrong dry goods store at St. Marys, Elizabeth Lintz remains at home, the housekeeper; Edith Lintz is the cashier in the Argonne hotel at Lima, Minnie Lintz is teaching psychology in the Northern Arizona Normal School at Flagstaff, Ariz., and John Lintz is employed in the Limbacher bakery at St. Marys. Katherine, widow of Frank Kennedy, has one child, a daughter, Fay, who married George Ivey, of Tombstone, Ariz., and has two children, Harold and Charles. Dora Lintz married J. E. Limbacher, a baker at St. Marys, and has two children, Fritz and Emil. Lafayette Lintz married Elizabeth Fischer and is now employed as foreman in the shop of the Sidney Tool Company at Sidney. Mr. Lintz and his wife are members of St. Paul's Reformed church at St. Marys and their children have been reared in that faith.

AUGUST SCHNELLE, a well-known and substantial farmer and landowner, now living retired at New Bremen, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has been a resident of this state all his life. Mr. Schnelle was born on a farm in VanBuren township, in the neighboring county of Shelby, October 18, 1873, and is a son of Christopher and Elizabeth (Ruese) Schnelle, the latter of whom also was born in that county, a member of one of the pioneer families there. The late Christopher Schnelle was a native of Germany and was about seven years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and settling in Shelby county, where his father entered from the Government a tract of forty acres of land in VanBuren township and there established his home, the Schnelles thus becoming pioneers of that county. It thus was on that pioneer farm in VanBuren township that Christopher Schnelle grew to manhood. After his marriage he established his home on the same place, the holding of which meanwhile had been extended until it included 145 acres, and there continued farming the remainder of his life, one of the useful and influential members of that community. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Minnie, and a brother, Louis Schnelle. Reared on the old home farm in VanBuren township, in the neighboring county of Shelby, August Schnelle received his schooling in the schools of

MR. AND MRS. AUGUST SCHNELLE

that neighborhood and as a lad was a helpful factor in the labors of improving and developing the farm. He remained on the farm, and after his father's death took over from the other heirs their respective interests in the estate and became owner of the farm of 145 acres, which he continued actively to operate until his retirement in March, 1920, and removal to New Bremen, where he and his wife are now living, very comfortably situated. Though no longer living on the farm, Mr. Schnelle continues to give pretty close supervisory attention to the operation of the same, and still regards himself as an active farmer. He has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, with particular attention to the breeding of purebred Belgian horses, purebred (Big Type) Poland-China hogs and a good grade of Shorthorn cattle, and has done well in his operations along this line. He is a member of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry at New Bremen and has served as master of that grange and also as treasurer of the same. In their political views, he and his wife are Democrats. Mr. Schnelle married Rose Brandt, daughter of William and Fredericka (Becker) Brandt, also members of old families in VanBuren township, Shelby county, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at New Bremen. They are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen and take a proper interest in the affairs of that parish.

WILLIAM B. JACK, of Wapakoneta, one of the best known oil producers in this section of Ohio and owner at the present time of no fewer than forty producing wells in Auglaize county, is a native "Buckeye" and has been a resident of this state nearly all his life, a resident of Auglaize county for nearly thirty-five years, he having come here from Pennsylvania about the time of the opening of the oil field hereabout. Mr. Jack was born in Morgan county, Ohio, April 3, 1865, and is a son of John and Levina (Rimmel) Jack, both of whom were born in the vicinity of Greensburg, Pa. John Jack became identified with the oil industry not long after the great fields in Pennsylvania had begun to attain their wonderful development and presently began to make a specialty of the "shooting" of oil and gas wells, manufacturing special explosives for that purpose, and continued thus engaged for years, his operations being carried on in the Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio fields. He and his wife were the parents of thirteen children, of whom eight still are living, the subject of this sketch having six sisters, Mary E., Lola M., Katie B., Edna, Hattie and Daisy, and one brother, Walter F. Jack. When he was but a child, William B. Jack moved from Ohio to Pennsylvania with his parents and his common schooling was completed in the schools of the latter state. He supplemented this with a course in the Chamberlain Institute, Randolph, N. Y., and then became engaged with his father in the oil field, shooting oil wells, and was thus en-

gaged for about eight years, or until about 1888, after the opening of the oil field in this part of Ohio, when he came here and for a year was engaged in shooting wells in this section of the state. About a year later he began drilling on leases secured on his own account, his first well having been a producer in the Hume neighborhood, in the northern part of this county, and he ever since has been engaged as a producer here, making his home and headquarters at Wapakoneta. During the years that Mr. Jack has been engaged in this business he has explored practically every "pool" in this section and in that time has brought in some very productive wells. Though it now seems to be recognized that the day of big oil has passed in this field, Mr. Jack finds it profitable to carry on his operations, and now has forty producing wells in the county, pumping his product into the lines of the Buckeye Pipe Line Company, and doing well at it. On July 3, 1884, William B. Jack was united in marriage to Anna J. Wolf, daughter of Henry and Catherine Wolf, and to that union four children have been born, Ezra B., Hazel M., Blanche E. and Clementine, all of whom are married save the latter. Ezra B. Jack married Susan Landis and is now engaged in the oil business in Texas. Hazel M. Jack married Ira B. Bair, a farmer of Auglaize county, and has two children, Norman D. and Virginia E., and Blanche E. Jack married S. S. Swink, who is now operating a garage at Spencerville, and has two children, Ruth Anna and Gordon J. Mr. Jack is a Democrat, and his wife and daughters are members of the Methodist Episcopal church.

HOWARD W. GIBBS, a veteran of the World war and principal of the Second Ward school at Wapakoneta, one of the best known young educators in this part of the state, was born in Wapakoneta and has lived there all his life. Mr. Gibbs was born on November 23, 1890, and is a son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Sibert) Gibbs, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here. Thomas Gibbs was born in the vicinity of Mansfield, in Richland county, this state, and was early trained to the carpenter trade. When twenty years of age he came to Auglaize county with his brother and here became engaged as a carpenter. After his marriage he established his home at Wapakoneta and became a building contractor, a vocation he followed successfully the remainder of his life. To him and his wife were born four children, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Henrietta Hoffman, of Wapakoneta, and a brother, Gaylord Gibbs, also of Wapakoneta. The deceased member of this family was Mrs. Cora Fenton. Reared at Wapakoneta, Howard W. Gibbs received his early schooling there and was graduated from the high school in 1911. He then turned his attention to teaching, his first school being the Otterbein school, and for five years thereafter oc-

cupied his summers by attending the summer course at Defiance College. He continued as a teacher in the district schools until 1914 when he was made teacher of the sixth grade in the Williamson school at Wapakoneta. For three years Mr. Gibbs occupied this position and was thus engaged when this country took a hand in the World war. In the spring of the following year, May 27, 1918, Mr. Gibbs entered the service and was assigned to Camp Taylor (Kentucky), where he underwent preliminary training and then was assigned to the medical department of the army and sent to Ft. Oglethorpe for additional training along that line. From this latter point he was sent to Camp Mills preparatory to foreign service and on August 27, 1918, sailed for France, going on detached service, the contingent with which he sailed entering the field of activities in France by way of England. In France Mr. Gibbs was assigned to the medical corps of the 53d Heavy Field Artillery and with this command he served until February 24, 1919, when he sailed for America, arriving on home shores on March 11. He was then ordered to report to Camp Sherman (Chillicothe, Ohio), where on April 4 following he received his honorable discharge and straightway returned to Wapakoneta. During his service in France Mr. Gibbs participated in some pretty strenuous action, having been in the Meuse-Argonne campaign from September 26 to October 4 (1918), and in the Verdun sector from October 25 to November 8. Upon his return to Wapakoneta Mr. Gibbs found promotion awaiting him and in the fall of 1919 he entered upon his new duties as principal of the Second Ward school (East Side) and he since has been serving as principal of that school, meanwhile pursuing a further course of study at Ohio State University in preparation for advancement in high school work. Mr. Gibbs has eight teachers under his charge at the Second Ward school and nearly three hundred pupils. He is a member of the Ohio State Teachers' Association and has long taken an earnest interest in the deliberations of that body. Mr. Gibbs is a Democrat. He is a Freemason and both he and his wife are members of the local chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. Mrs. Gibbs is a member of the First English Lutheran church and Mr. Gibbs is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. In 1917 Howard W. Gibbs was united in marriage to Ada Schwark who was born in St. Marys township, this county, daughter of Frederick and Margaret (Rohrbacher) Schwark, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the old families here. Frederick Schwark was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, but years ago became engaged in farming in St. Marys township, this county. To him and his wife were born five children, those besides Mrs. Gibbs being Raymond, Agnes, Erie and Ethel (deceased). Mrs. Gibbs was graduated from the St. Marys high school and for eight years thereafter was engaged in

teaching school, meanwhile completing her own schooling at summer school at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs have a pleasant home at 502 West Benton street and take an active and helpful part in the general social and cultural activities of the community.

SIMEON J. HOWELL, a former well-known and substantial farmer and landowner of Auglaize county, who died at his home in Pusheta township nearly a quarter of a century ago, but whose family is still prominently represented here, was a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county and at his passing left a good memory. Mr. Howell was born on a pioneer farm in the upper part of Pusheta township in 1838 and was a son of the Rev. Jefferson and Martha (Barker) Howell, the latter of whom was a native of the Old Dominion and had come to Ohio with her parents from Virginia in pioneer days. The Rev. Jefferson Howell, who formerly was widely known hereabout as a pioneer minister of the United Brethren church, was of the Samuel Howell family, which had settled on land entered from the Government in section 3 of Pusheta township in 1833, the year following the exodus of the Indians from their former reservation here, and the Howell home was established on lands which long had been held by the clan of old Chief Pusheta. The Rev. Jefferson Howell was a practical farmer, as well as a minister of the gospel, and his son, Simeon, was reared on the farm and trained in the ways of farming. Simeon J. Howell remained with his father on the farm until after his marriage, at the age of nineteen, when he began farming on his own account in that same township, having become the owner of a farm there, in section 7. About four years later, in 1861, he met with an accident while assisting in the operation of a threshing machine, and by this accident suffered the loss of one of his legs. This proved so serious a handicap in his farming operations that he presently left the farm and moved to Wapakoneta, where he became engaged in the farm produce line, with especial attention to butter, eggs and poultry, and was thus engaged for several years, at the end of which time he returned to the farm and supervised operations there until in 1868, when he returned to Wapakoneta. In 1873 he returned to the farm, where he remained until 1878, when he moved back to Wapakoneta. The lure of the farm proved too strong, however, and a year later he moved back to his place in Pusheta township and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1898. He was a good citizen in all that much abused term implies and had from time to time rendered important public service in his home township. He and his wife were members of the United Brethren church and were for years among the firm supporters of that communion in that neighborhood. It was in the early spring of 1857 that Simeon J. Howell was united in marriage to Mary Renshaw, a member of one of the prominent families of

MISS SARAH M. HOWELL

Darke county, and she survived him for about seventeen years, her death occurring in 1915. She was born in Ohio and her parents David and Rachel (McDonald) Renshaw, came from Pennsylvania. To Simeon J. and Mary (Renshaw) Howell were born twelve children, of whom all are living save three, and of whom Miss Sarah Howell, for years a well-known teacher in the Wapakoneta city schools, was the first born. Miss Howell was born in December, 1857, and has been a resident of this county all her life, for many years a most valued factor in the development of the county school system, her work in the Wapakoneta schools having endeared her to hundreds of youngsters who have benefited by the influence of her gentle tutelage. She began teaching at the age of fourteen, her first work along this line having been the direction of a spring and summer school in a rural district down in Shelby county, and she continued to carry on summer school work while taking the course in the then new high school organization at Wapakoneta. She was graduated from the Wapakoneta high school in 1874, when sixteen years of age, and her school work has been continued without interruption ever since. It may be interesting historically to recall that this class of '74 was the fourth class graduated from the Wapakoneta high school, and that there were but four members of the class, Miss Howell's classmates having been Joseph T. Dickman, now a major general of the United States army (retired), who led the Army of Occupation into Germany following the close of the World war in the fall of 1918; Fannie Fink, who became the wife of Doctor Weir, and Andrew Meyer, who is now living at Sandusky, Ohio. Following her graduation, Miss Howell became a licensed teacher and for three years thereafter taught in the rural schools of the county, or until 1877, when she was assigned to teach the fifth grade in the old Third Ward (Williamson) school at Wapakoneta. Three years later she returned to rural school work and thus continued until 1887, when she was returned to the Wapakoneta schools, her work there presently becoming devoted to the eighth grade. In 1890 she was assigned to high school work and has ever since been thus engaged, the oldest continuing force in the cause of education in this county, and is honored and respected accordingly. Miss Howell is an active member of the Auglaize County Teachers' Association, the Northwestern Ohio Teachers' Association and the Ohio State Teachers' Association, and has for years taken an earnest interest in the deliberations of these valuable education bodies. She has been a sincere member of the Methodist Episcopal church since she was sixteen years of age. She resides at 505 West Benton street, in Wapakoneta, and is very pleasantly situated, her friends and her books and her school work, together with such church and club work as she is called upon to do, giving her every possible zest in life.

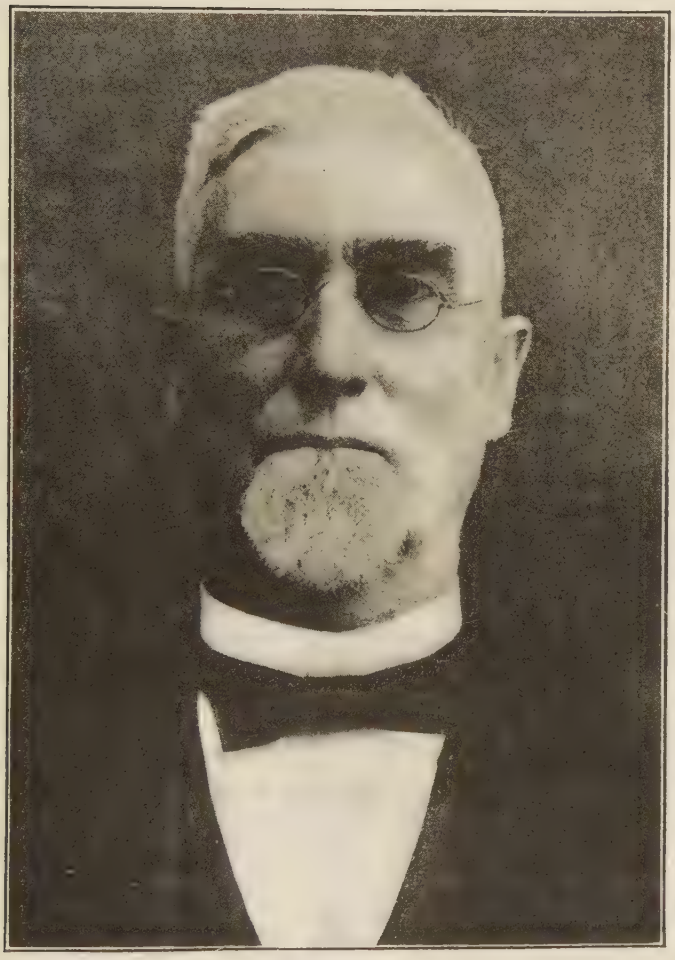
JOHN CHIESA, leader of the famous Elks band at Wapakoneta, and formerly and for years engaged in the plant of the Wapakoneta Machine Company, now with the Diesel-Weimmer Company, an artist and musician of more than local reputation and a former merchant of Wapakoneta, is of European birth, but an American by choice and inclination, has been a resident of this country since he was nineteen years of age, and of Wapakoneta for more than thirty years. Mr. Chiesa was born in Italy on April 1, 1855, and in that country received his schooling, giving particular attention to the cultivation of his instinctive taste for music and sculptural art. He became a member of the famous Liberati band, and when nineteen years of age came with that musical organization to the United States. During the three years' tour of America undertaken by this band, Mr. Chiesa became so well pleased with the country that he decided to make it his home land, and upon his return to Italy married the girl to whom he had plighted his troth, and with his bride returned to the United States. In the meantime his father had been induced to move to this country and had settled with his family at Milwaukee, and when Mr. Chiesa returned to American shores he also located in Milwaukee, where he became engaged in the manufacture of art statuettes, for which in those days there was a wide demand in this country. There he remained until his father's death, after which he went to Detroit, having been drawn to that city by an attractive offer to play in what then was a widely known band. He remained there two years and then was persuaded by a cousin to take charge of a fruit store which the latter had established at Muncie, Ind. For a year he remained at Muncie, and while thus engaged at that place decided to enter the retail fruit business on his own account. In casting about for a location he was fortunate in turning his attention to Wapakoneta, where he opened a fruit store and for ten years thereafter was engaged in the fruit business in that city. With the gradual but inevitable changes in methods of distribution and sale, this business finally became less profitable than at first, and about twenty years ago Mr. Chiesa disposed of his store and became employed in the extensive machine shop of the Wapakoneta Machine Company, where he long was employed, becoming one of the veterans of that considerable organization. He never has abated in his love for music and for years has been one of the real leaders in local musical circles, being at present the director of the band of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta, a musical organization of more than forty members which has earned a fine reputation throughout this part of the state. Mr. Chiesa is a member of the Elks lodge and is also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, retaining his membership in the lodge of that order with which he became affili-

ated during the time of his residence in Detroit many years ago. He and his family are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Wapakoneta and take an interested and helpful part in local parish affairs. Mr. Chiesa has four children, Jennie, Theresa, Nellie and Donato A., all of whom are married and all living at Wapakoneta save Nellie, who married Carl Kohler, proprietor of a cigar and confectionery store at Columbus, Ohio, and is now living in that city. She has one child, a son, Carl Jr. Jennie Chiesa married Herman Brown, now deceased, and has two children, Dorothy and Robert. Theresa Chiesa married Milo Bitler, of the Hauss & Bitler grain elevator organization, and has three children, Elizabeth, John and Frances. Donato A. Chiesa, a veteran of the World war, married Doll Smallwood and is now employed as a clerk in the Piel clothing and dry goods store, on East Auglaize street.

H. A. SCHRAGE, formerly and for years a teacher in the schools of this county, one of the best known educators hereabout, and now engaged as a bookkeeper in the office of the Gast Implement Company at New Bremen, as well as serving as clerk of the board of public affairs of that town, is a European by birth, but has been a resident of this country and of New Bremen since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Schrage was born in the kingdom of Hanover on February 25, 1868, and was but sixteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents, Ferdinand and Mina Schrage, and with them proceeded on out into Ohio and located at New Bremen. Upon his arrival here Mr. Schrage at once entered the New Bremen school with a view to completing his schooling under American conditions and he made an apt student, for the groundwork of his education had been carefully laid before he came here. That was in 1884, just about the time that the late Prof. C. W. Williamson had entered upon his duties as superintendent of the New Bremen schools, and it was under this able preceptorship that Mr. Schrage completed his work there and was graduated from the high school. During the progress of his studies he had been giving thought to the ambition that rose within him to become a teacher in the public schools and upon receiving his diploma he straightway entered the ranks of Auglaize county's excellent teaching staff and for thirty years thereafter was engaged in teaching in the schools of this county, the greater part of this time being connected with the schools of New Bremen. During the years 1912-13 Mr. Schrage served as district superintendent of schools for the townships of Washington and Pusheta. In October, 1917, he entered upon his present service as bookkeeper in the office of the Gast Implement Company at New Bremen, a position which he since has occupied. For years Mr. Schrage has given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs and is now serving as clerk of the board of public affairs for the town

of New Bremen. He also served two terms as town clerk and in other ways has rendered service in the public behalf. He is a past noble grand of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at New Bremen and he and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church. Mr. Schrage is a member of the present board of trustees of the congregation of St. Paul's and has for years given his earnest attention to the affairs of the church. It was he who organized the strong Bible class in the Sunday school of this church and for fourteen years he remained teacher of the same, hundreds during this time receiving the benefit of his thoughtful interpretation and elucidation of the Scriptures. Mr. Schrage married Anna Tellman and has two children, Carl and Marie. The Schrages have a pleasant home at New Bremen and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the community.

JOHN McAVOY, formerly and for years a merchant of St. Marys, and who had rendered public service in various official capacities, including service as a member of the city council and as a justice of the peace, was past eighty years of age at the time of his death in 1916, and it is likely that he had as wide an acquaintance in and about there as any man in the city, for he had made his home there for more than sixty years, and thus had witnessed the growth and development of the town from pioneer days. Mr. McAvoy was born in New Jersey in 1832 and was a son of Peter McAvoy and wife, who came to Ohio with their family in the early '50s and settled on a farm on the McKinley road out of St. Marys. Peter McAvoy was a native of Ireland, born in County Louth, Leinster, and was trained to the trade of weaver, a trade he followed for years after coming to this country, following that occupation in New Jersey until he came here, after which he gave his attention to the development of the tract of land he had bought here. John McAvoy was twenty-one years of age when he came here about 1853, and for two years thereafter, or until his parents could get well settled in their new home on the farm, he remained with them, helping to get things going. He then started a lime kiln along the canal at St. Marys, and not long afterward opened a grocery store on Spring street, at the site now occupied by the Montague store, and as his business developed started a fleet of boats on the canal, having three boats thus operating in the Piqua trade and in the Cincinnati trade, and it was not long until he came to be recognized as one of the influential factors in the development of the commercial interests of the town. For thirty-two years Mr. McAvoy carried on his grocery business at St. Marys, in the meantime developing other interests in the town, and then in 1900 retired from business, the remainder of his life being spent in quiet retirement at the pleasant home he had established there after his marriage, his death occurring in 1916,



JOHN McAVOY

he then being eighty-four years of age. Mr. McAvoy was a Democrat and for years had given his attention to local civic affairs, having served from time to time as a member of the local school board, as a member of the city council and as a justice of the peace in and for St. Marys township. He was an earnest member of the Holy Rosary Catholic church, as is his widow, and took a proper interest in parish affairs. It was in 1895 that John McAvoy was united in marriage to Sarah Riley, who survives him and who is comfortably situated at her pleasant home at 202 North Walnut street. Mr. McAvoy was twice married. He had no children of his own, but in his hospitable home reared nine orphans. With his first wife, who was Alice Ennis, he reared four children, three of whom grew to maturity, and he and his second wife reared five children, two of whom are still with their foster mother. Mrs. McAvoy was born on a farm in the vicinity of Celina, in the neighboring county of Mercer, and is a daughter of John and Mary (Allen) Riley, both of whom were born in County Louth, Leinster, Ireland, and who were acquaintances in the old country of Peter McAvoy. Upon coming to this country from Ireland, John Riley located at Rochester, N. Y., where he presently married Mary Allen, who had come from the neighborhood of his old home in Ireland. Not long after their marriage they came to Ohio and settled on a farm which John Riley bought on the Celina road, in Mercer county, and there they spent the remainder of their lives, both dying in 1903 within two months. They were members of the church of the Immaculate Conception at Celina, and their children were reared in the Catholic faith. Mrs. McAvoy has ever taken an earnest interest in parish affairs and is an active member of the women's societies of Holy Rosary parish.

PEARL J. LAWLER, head bookkeeper in the office of the Jaspersen Supply Company of St. Marys and a member of the board of directors of that concern, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Lawler was born on a farm in Noble township on November 4, 1885, and is a son of Peter J. and Emma (Rissman) Lawler, the latter of whom, also born in this county, a member of one of the old families here, is still living, now a resident of St. Marys. The late Peter J. Lawler was born in Butler county, this state, and was but a boy when he came to Auglaize county with his parents in the '50s of the past century, the family locating in Noble township, where he grew to manhood and was married. He established himself on a farm and became the owner of an excellent farm of 160 acres, where he made his home until he sold out and retired in 1912, moving to St. Marys, where he spent his last days, his death occurring there on May 27, 1914. His widow married John H. Sondkuhl, a retired farmer of Noble township, and is now living at St. Marys. To Peter J. Lawler and wife four children were born,

the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Marie Brady, of Lima, Ohio, and two brothers, Bernard T. Lawler, who also is living at Lima, where he is employed in the office of the Lima Trust Company, and Joseph P. Lawler, also of Lima, a traveling salesman for the Urbana Packing Company. Reared on the home farm in Noble township, Pearl J. Lawler supplemented the schooling he received in the local schools by a course in the Tri-State College at Angola, Ind., and was for four years thereafter engaged in teaching in the district schools of his home township. He then became employed as a bookkeeper in the office of the G.-H.-F. company's mills at St. Marys and continued thus employed for six years, or until 1913, when he entered upon his present connection with the Jaspersen Supply Company of St. Marys, of which concern he is a stockholder and a member of the board of directors, and has ever since been thus engaged, one of the active and energetic young business men of that city. On November 16, 1911, Pearl J. Lawler was united in marriage to Edith A. Plettner, who also had been a teacher in the schools of this county, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Ned Edward, born on June 26, 1918. Mrs. Lawler was born in St. Marys township and is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Wilkins) Plettner, the latter of whom was born in the neighboring county of Mercer. Henry Plettner was born in the vicinity of Marysville, in Union county, this state, and was but a boy when he came to Auglaize county with his parents. He married in Mercer county and then established himself on a farm in St. Marys township. To him and his wife two children were born, Mrs. Lawler having had a brother, Edward J. Plettner, who died in 1918. Mrs. Lawler was graduated from the St. Marys high school in 1905 and for five years thereafter was engaged in teaching in the schools of this county, two years in Noble township and three years in St. Marys township. Mr. and Mrs. Lawler are members of the popular Idlewild Club of St. Marys, of which Mr. Lawler is the present secretary, and are members of Zion's Lutheran church. In their political views they are Democrats.

A. C. SETTLAGE, secretary-treasurer and general manager of the Auglaize Hoist and Body Company of New Bremen, and one of the organizers of that company, a former member of the New Bremen town council, a former school teacher and now president of the local board of education, and in other ways for years actively interested in the general industrial, civic and social affairs of that community, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has lived here all his life, long recognized as one of the most influential factors in the general life of the community in which he lives. Mr. Settlage was born on a farm in the west central part of Washington township (section 18), along the banks of Center creek, August 3, 1869, and is a son of William and Rebecca

(Meyer) Settlage, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here, and whose last days were spent here. William Settlage was a son of Arnold and Elizabeth Settlage, natives of Germany, who had become members of the considerable German settlement that was effected here following the opening of these lands to settlement back in the '30s of the past century and had established their homes here. Arnold Settlage was a trained blacksmith, and for some time after coming here had followed that vocation, but later became a farmer in German township, and as such spent the remainder of his life, a substantial member of the community. A. C. Settlage was reared on the home farm in Washington township, and upon completing the course in the district school there entered the New Bremen high school, and upon completing his high school work secured a license to teach school, and for three years was engaged during the winters as a teacher. He then took a normal course in the Tri-State College at Angola, Ind., and upon leaving that institution resumed his teaching and was for nine years thereafter thus engaged, his services as a teacher in the schools of German and Washington townships thus having covered a period of twelve years, his summers in the meantime being spent on the farm. Mr. Settlage then moved to New Bremen and there took a position in the office of the Klanke Furniture Company, being given charge of the retail furniture and undertaking department of that concern, and was thus connected for eight years, at the end of which time he became one of the organizers of the Auglaize Hoist and Body Company of New Bremen and was elected secretary and treasurer of that company, later being made general manager of the extensive plant created by this concern at New Bremen, and has since been active in that capacity. This plant, one of the most extensive manufacturing plants in Auglaize county, specializes in steel bodies for automobile trucks and in hoisting appliances for trucks, and has created a wide market for its products. The company's initial enterprise was the manufacture of automobile trucks, but after five years of that form of activity began to confine itself to its present specialty, and in this latter operation has done well. Mr. Settlage is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to civic affairs. For six years he was a member of the New Bremen town council, and is now president of the local board of education, his long service in the schoolroom giving to his services in that connection a special value. He and his wife are members of Zion Reformed Church and he is an elder in the church. Mr. Settlage married Grace Holcroft, and has two children, Dean and Robert Rodney. The Settlages have a pleasant home, and Mr. and Mrs. Settlage take an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the community of which they have been a part for many years.

GEORGE A. SHUSTER, surveyor of Auglaize county and a veteran of the World war, with a record of overseas service as an officer of the national army, was born in Cincinnati, but has been a resident of Auglaize county since the days of his boyhood. He was born on July 25, 1892, and is a son of William and Mary Shuster, both of whom also were born in this state, and the latter of whom is now living at New Knoxville, this county. William Shuster was engaged in the wholesale shoe business at Cincinnati. After his death there, his family removed to New Knoxville, and it was in the schools of this village that George A. Shuster received his early schooling, later entering the high school at Spencerville, from which he was graduated in 1910. Following his graduation he was for three years engaged during the winters in teaching school in this county and in the neighboring county of Allen, and in 1913 entered the civil engineering school of Ohio State University, where he remained three years. When this country took a part in the World war in the spring of 1917, Mr. Shuster enlisted his services, and on May 11, 1917, entered the officers' training camp, where on August 15 following he received his commission as a second lieutenant and was sent to Camp Sherman, where he was attached to the 83d Division, and in May, 1918, sailed with this command for overseas service. He was overseas for seventeen months, and during this period saw some pretty strenuous service, this service including his participation in the notable battles of Chateau Thierry, at St. Mihiel and in the Argonne. The later period of his overseas service was rendered with the 4th Division, to which he had been transferred, and to which he was attached when the armistice was signed, in November, 1918. After the armistice and pending orders for his return, Mr. Shuster seized the opportunity to do a bit of extension work in civil engineering in the University of Edinburg, where he remained four and one-half months. He returned to the United States on September 7, 1919, and was discharged with the rank of first lieutenant at Camp Sherman. Upon receiving his discharge from military service, Mr. Shuster re-entered the State University to complete there his unfinished course in civil engineering, and in June, 1920, was graduated from that institution. Upon leaving the university, Mr. Shuster became connected with the Kentucky state inspection bureau and was thus engaged in technical service from July, 1920, to August, 1921. In the meantime, during the memorable campaign of 1920, he had been made the nominee of the Republicans of Auglaize county for the office of county surveyor, and was elected to that office in the November election. On September 5, 1921, he entered upon the duties of this office and has since been serving in that capacity. Mr. Shuster is a Republican, a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at New Knoxville, and a member of the American Legion. He is

GEORGE A. SHUSTER

actively affiliated with the American Association of Engineers and is a Scottish Rite (32°) Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with the consistory at Columbus and with the Shrine at Lexington, Ky. He also is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. In the election of November, 1922, Mr. Shuster was re-elected to the office of county surveyor by a majority of 1,068 votes.

HENRY DIERKER, formerly and for many years one of the most active and influential figures in the commercial and industrial life of Auglaize county, a well known merchant and manufacturer of New Bremen, where he died in 1917, left a good memory at his passing and it is but fitting that some slight tribute to that memory be paid here in the definite history of the county to which he had so long contributed his energies. Mr. Dierker was a native "Buckeye," a fact of which he never had ceased to be proud, and all his life was spent in this state. He was born in the city of Piqua on January 18, 1854, and was a son of August and Catherine (Klethfut) Dierker, both of whom were members of pioneer families there and whose last days were spent in that city. They were the parents of five children, one of whom died in infancy and the others, besides the subject of this memorial sketch, being William, Mary and Elizabeth. Reared at Piqua, Henry Dierker early learned the blacksmith trade and followed that until he came up into Auglaize county and located at New Bremen, where he became engaged as a clerk in a dry goods store and where he preesntly married a New Bremen girl, Louise Griewe, daughter of George Griewe, a dry goods merchant of that place and proprietor of a grain elevator. After his marriage Mr. Dierker formed a partnership with Mr. Griewe and became engaged in business with the latter under the firm name of Griewe & Dierker, thus entering upon a career of business expansion which in time caused him to be recognized as one of the leaders in the commercial and industrial life of New Bremen. Several years after this partnership was formed Mr. Dierker bought the interest of his father-in-law in the business, this including the dry goods store and the grain elevator, and thereafter carried on the business alone. About twenty years ago in 1902, he erected the handsome commercial block in which the First National Bank of New Bremen now is located and there carried on his commercial operations until his death, which occurred on January 10, 1917. In addition to his mercantile and grain interests, Mr. Dierker also gave much attention to the industrial development of the town and at the time of his death was president of the Auglaize Furniture Company, a concern of which he formerly and for years had been vice president. He also was president of the Pohrman Machine Company and of the New Bremen Broom Company. He was a Democrat and gave a good citizen's attention

to local civic affairs, having served from time to time in several public capacities in connection with the town government. His church affiliation was with the Zion Reformed church, of which his widow also is a member, and he had ever given proper attention to church affairs. To Mr. and Mrs. Dierker were born two children, daughters both, Lillian, wife of H. W. Rairdon, and Clara, who married the Rev. Paul Kluge and has one child, a daughter, Margaret. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Dierker has continued to make her home at New Bremen, where she is very comfortably situated. She was born at New Bremen and is one of the six children born to George and Dorothy Griewe, the others being Gustave, Mollie, Emma, Ida and Dora. Both George Griewe and his wife were born in Germany and had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their childhood. George Griewe was not two years of age when his parents came to this country and settled on a farm in the New Bremen neighborhood, where he grew to manhood, later moving to Mercer county. After his marriage he returned to New Bremen and became engaged in the general mercantile business and later in the grain business and became one of the leading business men of the town, where he spent the remainder of his life.

DANIEL W. JAY, president of the St. Marys Telephone Company, vice-president of the First National Bank of St. Marys and formerly and for years president of the Jay Grain Company, one of the best known and most influential factors in the general commercial life of the community, has been a resident of St. Marys since the days of his young manhood and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development that has marked the growth of that city and of the whole community during the past half century. Mr. Jay was born on a farm in the vicinity of West Milton, in Miami county, Ohio, November 16, 1846, and is a son of the Rev. Thomas J. and Sarah J. (Hoover) Jay, both members of pioneer families in that section of Ohio. The Rev. Thomas J. Jay, a minister of the Friends church, also was the owner of a good farm of 140 acres and a practical farmer, a vocation to which he gave his attention until he was seventy years of age, when he retired from the farm and moved to West Milton, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there in 1890, he then being seventy-six years of age. To him and his wife were born ten children, of whom five are still living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Elizabeth, Ella and Emma, and a brother, Orlistus Jay, of Redkey, Ind. There was another brother, the late Oliver Jay, who died in 1904 and who was associated with his brothers, who long operated extensively throughout this section of Ohio and over in Indiana as the Jay Grain Company. Reared on the home farm in the vicinity of West Milton, in Miami county, Daniel

W. Jay was given the best the local schools had to offer in the way of schooling in those days and then was sent to Earlham College, at Richmond, Ind., where his brothers also completed their schooling. Upon leaving college the brothers became engaged in the manufacture of linseed oil at St. Marys and built up a fine business along that line, continuing thus engaged for thirty years, or until the gradual development of the great linseed mills rendered no longer profitable the operation of local mills. In the meantime they had been branching out in the general grain business, the start in this line having been the purchase of an elevator at Redkey, Ind., in 1888. This was the beginning of the great business later built up by the Jay Grain Company, for the brothers presently incorporated under that name, with Daniel W. Jay as president of the company, and in time were operating as many as nine grain elevators and carrying on their operations not only at St. Marys and Ft. Recovery, in this state, but at Portland, Redkey, Elwood, DeSoto, Mulberry, Royertown and Blaine, Ind., and Gilman, Ill. In the meantime Daniel W. Jay continued to make his home at St. Marys and was developing other interests there, these including the presidency of the St. Marys Telephone Company and the vice-presidency of the First National Bank of St. Marys, so that when the brothers disposed of their interest in the Jay Grain Company in April, 1920, Mr. Jay was able to give his undivided attention to these latter and other collateral interests, and has since been thus engaged, maintaining the active interest in local affairs that has for many years made him one of the acknowledged factors in the promotion of the commercial interests of the town and the community at large. On May 23, 1870, Daniel W. Jay was united in marriage to Belle Hollingsworth, daughter of Edward and Rachel Hollingsworth, of St. Marys, and to this union three children have been born, Charles E., Catherine and Clarence H., all of whom save the latter live at St. Marys and the two latter of whom are married. Catherine Jay married Edsel Quimby and Clarence H. Jay married Bertha Erfert and has three children, Mary, Robert and Ann. Mrs. Belle (Hollingsworth) Jay died in 1910. Clarence H. Jay, who is now living at Columbus and who is regarded as an expert on taxation problems, was born on July 21, 1886, and his schooling was completed at the Culver Military Academy and at the University School of Cleveland. In 1904 he entered the employ of the old Columbus Gas and Fuel Company and later became one of the promoters of the organization of the Ohio Cities Gas Company, and became the auditor of the same. He now is connected with the Pure Oil Company, of which concern he is the controller. Daniel W. Jay is a Republican and has for years been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in this county, but has not been a seeker after public office. He is a member of the

local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and has long been a member of the Presbyterian church, he being a member of the present session of that church, an elder for many years. The Jays have a very pleasant home at 333 West Spring street, St. Marys.

FRANCIS MARION SWONGUER, of the firm of Heinl & Swonguer, furniture dealers and undertakers at Wapakoneta, was born on a farm in the vicinity of the village of DeGraff, in the neighboring county of Logan, September 4, 1877, and is a son of Marion and Martha (Fuson) Swonguer, the latter a native of Champaign county, who are now living in Bellefontaine. Marion Swonguer is a Pennsylvanian by birth, but has been a resident of Ohio since the days of his boyhood, his parents having moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio many years ago, settling in Logan county, where he grew to manhood, and after his marriage established his home and is now the owner of a well-kept farm of 160 acres. To him and his wife were born seven children, two of whom, Thurman and Lee, are deceased, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being William, James, George and Forrest. Reared on the home farm in Logan county, Francis M. Swonguer received his schooling in the DeGraff schools and continued working as a farmer until he was nineteen years of age, when, in 1896, he went to Lima to take employment in an undertaking establishment in that city with a view to learning the details of that business. He remained there about six years, or until 1902, when he became employed as salesman and undertaker in the establishment of the Philip Nagel Furniture Company, at Wapakoneta, and has since been a resident of that city. For ten years Mr. Swonguer gave his attention to the undertaking department of this concern and then he formed a partnership with C. J. Heinl in the furniture and undertaking business, under the firm name of Heinl & Swonguer, and thus became engaged in business on his own account. This mutually agreeable arrangement and partnership continued until the death of Mr. Heinl, in December, 1920, when the interest of their father was taken over by Mr. Heinl's sons, Leo A. and Michael O. Heinl, and the business has been carried on as before, the old firm name being maintained, with Mr. Swonguer still giving his personal attention to the undertaking department of the business. Mr. Swonguer is an active member of the Ohio Funeral Directors' Association, with which he has been affiliated for years, and has long taken an interested part in the deliberations of that body. He is a member of the board of directors of the Peoples National Bank at Wapakoneta, is a Democrat, a member of the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, of which latter lodge he is a past trustee, and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. On December 24, 1901, Francis M. Swonguer was united in marriage to Verna Shaw,

FRANCIS M. SWONGUER

who also was born in Logan county, daughter of David and Mary Shaw, and to this union three children have been born, Herman, Oral and Roland, all of whom are at home. The Swonguers have a very pleasant home and take an interested part in the general social affairs of the city.

JOHN WERNSING, one of the well known merchants of Auglaize county, proprietor of a well equipped dry goods and grocery store at Minster, where he has been engaged in business for more than thirty years and who also formerly and for years was engaged in the grain business there, was born in the city of Cincinnati on January 27, 1855, and is a son of Frederick and Caroline (Boeckerstetter) Wernsing, whose last days were spent in that city. Both Frederick Wernsing and his wife were natives of Germany who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the two families having located at Cincinnati. Frederick Wernsing was seven years of age when he came to this country and he grew to manhood at Cincinnati, under the direction of his father, Henry Frederick Wernsing, taking up the trade of carriage blacksmith, a vocation he followed to the end of his days. To him and his wife were born thirteen children, but three of whom are now living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mary, and a brother, Frank Wernsing. Reared at Cincinnati, John Wernsing received his schooling in the schools of that city and at the age of sixteen began an apprenticeship to the trade of carriage maker, with particular reference to the woodworking side of that trade, and for nineteen years followed that trade in Cincinnati, for nine years of this time serving as foreman of the plant of the Enterprise Carriage Company. In 1890 Mr. Wernsing left the carriage shop and came up here into Auglaize county and became engaged in business with J. B. Meyer, Jr., succeeding J. B. Meyer, Sr., then the proprietor of a general store, grain elevator and lumber yard at Minster. When two years later, in 1892, Mr. Meyer died Mr. Wernsing became associated with the latter's son, J. B. Meyer, Jr., in continuing this business, the firm operating under the name of J. B. Meyer & Co., and this arrangement continued until in 1900 when Mr. Wernsing took over the business and for twenty years thereafter continued to carry on the several departments of the business alone. In 1920 he sold the grain elevator to the Farmers Co-operative Company and has since then given his whole attention to his store, in which he carries a well stocked line of dry goods and groceries. Mr. Wernsing is a Democrat. He is a charter member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at Minster and has served as a member of the board of trustees of that body. John Wernsing married Anna Meyer, of Minster, and he and his wife have three daughters, Stella, Mary and Hilda, the latter of

whom is a music teacher. Mr. and Mrs. Wernsing are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster and he has served as a member of the board of trustees of the valuable property held in that parish. He also is a member of the St. Augustine Society and of the St. Boniface Society. Mrs. Wernsing was born at Minster and is a daughter of J. B. and Agnes Meyer, both natives of Germany and the former of whom, formerly Mr. Wernsing's business associate, was for many years one of the best known business men in Minster, doing a large business there in the general goods line, as well as in grain and lumber. The Wernsings have a pleasant home at Minster and have ever given their interested and helpful attention to the general social activities of that community.

FERD W. RABE, secretary-treasurer of the Rabe Manufacturing Company of New Bremen, vice-president of the New Bremen Telephone Company, a member of the directorates of the First National Bank and the First City Bank of that city, formerly and for years president of the board of public works, former treasurer of German township and in other ways interested in the civic and commercial activities of the community in which he lives, was born at New Bremen and has lived there all his life. Mr. Rabe was born on December 4, 1875, and is a son of William and Mary (Schowe) Rabe, the latter of whom was born in German township, a member of one of the pioneer families there. William Rabe, president of the Rabe Manufacturing Company of New Bremen, is of European birth and was eighteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents from Germany, the family coming on out into western Ohio and settling in Mercer county. For two years after his arrival in Mercer county William Rabe "worked around" among the farmers of the neighborhood in which his parents had settled and then, when twenty years of age, began working in the Weimeyer warehouse at New Bremen, in which city he ever since has made his home, long ago having come to be recognized as among the leading factors in the industrial life of that thriving little city. Two years after locating at New Bremen William Rabe became engaged with his brother Henry in the hardware business there and about five years later bought his brother's interest in the business and thereafter carried it on alone, continuing thus engaged in the hardware business there until he had rounded out nearly half a century of continuous business activity before he retired. Meantime he had been developing other lines of commercial and industrial activity, some fifteen years before his retirement from the store having bought the old spoke factory at New Bremen. This he converted into a planing mill, which in the years since has developed into the extensive plant of the Rabe Manufacturing Company, of which he has been president since its organiza-

tion. He also, some ten years before his retirement from the store, established the linseed oil mill there. All this time, too, he was not neglecting his civic duties, taking his turn of service as a member of the town council and also for some years served as treasurer of the city. Though now living practically retired from the more active duties of the business he has built up, William Rabe continues to keep a pretty close supervisory eye on the operation of the big woodworking plant and the other enterprises with which he is connected and has lost none of his old time directing force. To him and his wife were born eight children, all of whom are living save three, these latter including August Rabe, who upon the organization of the Rabe Manufacturing Company was made general manager of the plant and who died in 1920. The other members of this family, besides the subject of this sketch, are Minnie, who married F. B. Speckman; Alvina, wife of G. A. Kunning; Ida, wife of Lafayette Kunning, and Lillian, wife of O. C. Roettger. Ferd W. Rabe received his schooling in the New Bremen schools, supplementing the same by a course in a commercial college at Defiance, and then entered his father's office as bookkeeper. When about three years later (in 1901) the Rabe Manufacturing Company was organized he was made secretary-treasurer of the same, a position he since has retained; his father became president of the organization and his brother August was made general manager of the plant. During the twenty-two years of this company's active operations the plant, which was worked over from the mill having become recognized widely as among the very best in that old spoke factory, has been enlarged and its operations extended until now the output has come to be in wide demand, the products of the line. The specialty of the Rabe Manufacturing Company is the manufacture of high grade interior wood work and built-in fixtures for both offices and homes and the increasing demand for these products keeps the mill running at capacity production all the time, about twenty-five persons being employed in the plant. F. W. Rabe is also an active factor in several other enterprises, including the vice-presidency of the New Bremen Telephone Company, a place on the board of directors of both the banks at New Bremen and the secretary-treasurership of the Rabe Lumber Company at Minster, and during the time of its saw-milling activities in the South was the secretary-treasurer of the Yahlin-Rabe Lumber Company at Jesup, Ga. In December, 1922, he organized the W. Urban Company of New Bremen, a wholesale lumber concern, and is secretary and treasurer of the same. Mr. Rabe is a Democrat and for eight years served as president of the local board of public affairs, and for two terms as township treasurer. He is past chancellor commander of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen and is a member of the lodge of

the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. On September 20, 1901, F. W. Rabe was united in marriage to Laura Garmhausen, daughter of John and Marie (Strausburg) Garmhausen, and to this union two children have been born, Marie and Louise. Mr. and Mrs. Rabe are members of the St. Paul's Lutheran church and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in church work.

ORLANDO FREDERICK BENTON, a veteran of the Civil War, one of the best known octogenarians of Auglaize county and a substantial farmer and landowner of Salem township, where he has lived since the days of his boyhood, was born in Ross county, Ohio, January 10, 1841, and is a son of Amos and Sarah (Benton) Benton, who became pioneers of Auglaize county and whose last days were spent here. Amos Benton was born in Connecticut, and after his marriage there came to Ohio and settled in Ross county, where he made his home for some years, at the end of which time he moved up into Franklin county, where he remained for three years, or until 1856, when he came to Auglaize county with his family and settled on a tract of 226 acres of uncleared timber land south of the river in the west part of Salem township, which he had bought, and on that place proceeded to establish a home and make a farm. He cleared ninety-eight acres of this tract and on that place spent his last days, one of the useful pioneers of that part of the county. He and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom the subject of this sketch now alone survives, he having had a sister, Cornelia, and two brothers, Horatio and Chester E. Benton. Orlando F. Benton was fifteen years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1856, and he grew to manhood on the pioneer home farm in Salem township, completing his schooling in the St. Marys high school. Upon the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front with the 118th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served until his honorable discharge within less than a year on account of physical disability induced by illness. He returned home and following his recuperation was drafted into service and returned to the army as a member of the 78th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served until the close of the war. While thus serving he was detailed as a guard in the headquarters detachment of the 17th Army Corps, and thus served during the time of Sherman's march to the sea. Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. Benton returned home and resumed his place on the farm, remaining with his father until after his marriage, when he bought the farm on which he is now living, a tract of 163 acres, a bit more than the measured northeast quarter of section 6 of Salem township, and has ever since made his home there, in the many years of his occupancy of this place having developed one of the best improved farms in that

ORLANDO FREDERICK BENTON AND WIFE

section of the county. For this place Mr. Benton paid the sum of $1,600, a little less than $10 an acre. Considering the present value of land in Auglaize county, these figures are interesting. The greater part of that land was heavily timbered, and upon Mr. Benton's shoulders fell the task of clearing the place and making a farm out of it, but he presently got the job done and has for years had an excellent farm there. Though of late years he naturally has been taking things a good bit easier than during the long years of his active farm labor, he continues to make his home on the farm and is very comfortably situated, he and his wife having pretty much everything that is needed to make life comfortable in a farm home. Mrs. Benton, who was Mary Crowe, was born in Virginia and was but a girl when she came to Ohio with her parents, Samuel and Sarah Crowe, the family becoming pioneers of this county. Mr. and Mrs. Benton are Republicans and he has served as a school director in his district. He has for many years been a member of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry and has served as secretary and treasurer of the grange. The Bentons have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys.

J. W. EITING, president of the Minster State Bank of Minster, vice-president of the Industrial Equipment Company of Minster, secretary-treasurer of the Minster Machine Company, a member of the board of directors of the Star Beverage Company of that place, secetary-treasurer of the Strenie Tool and Manufacturing Company of New Bremen and of the St. Marys Foundry Company, an active factor in the promotion of the extensive Herkenhoff interests in the western part of this county and for years regarded as one of the "live wires" in the commercial and industrial life of this region, was born at Minster and has lived there all his life. Mr. Eiting is a son of John and Gertrude (Rabe) Eiting, natives of Germany, who were married at Minster and whose last days were spent there, the latter dying in 1908. The late John Eiting, who died in 1912, came to this country shortly after attaining his majority and in 1849 located at Minster, where for a time, until he could get settled into business as a tailor, a vocation for which he had been trained in the old country, worked on the canal. After his marriage he became established as a tailor at Minster and continued that line until in the late '70s, when he became engaged in the woolen mill business and was thus engaged until 1894, when he started a dry goods and grocery store at Minster and was thus engaged until his retirement in 1905, his death following seven years later. To him and his wife were born seven children, two of whom—Catherine and Minnie—are deceased, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Frank, Elizabeth, Josephine and Caroline. Reared at Minster, J. W. Eiting received his schooling in

the schools of that place and then became engaged with his father in the mercantile business, remaining connected with the store until his father sold out and retired in 1905, after which he began to give his whole attention to the affairs of the Minster Machine Company, which had been incorporated not long before that by his father-in-law, Frank Herkenhoff, and the latter's sons, Charles and Anton Herkenhoff, and of which he was elected secretary and treasurer, a position which he ever since has held and in the exercise of which he has done much to promote the interests of that concern as well as of its subsidiary connections at New Bremen and St. Marys, long having been regarded as one of the active figures in local industrial circles. Mr. Eiting is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and is also affiliated with the Knights of St. John and with the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and he and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church. J. W. Eiting married Adelia B. Herkenhoff, a daughter of the late Frank Herkenhoff, of Minster, formerly and for many years one of the leaders in the commercial and industrial life of that town and concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union have been born two children, Marie and Carl F. Mr. Eiting was one of the organizers of the Minster State Bank in 1914 and has been president of that financial institution since then, an influential figure in banking circles in this county.

HERMAN S. VAUBEL, of Wapakoneta, former judge of probate for Auglaize county and one of the well known young lawyers in this county, former chairman of the Democratic county central committee and for years one of the influential factors in the junior ranks of that party in this district, was born at Wapakoneta and has resided there all his life. Judge Vaubel was born on February 21, 1889, and is a son of Christian and Margaret (Gumbrecht) Vaubel, the latter of whom was of European birth, born at Hertzegnoria, in the kingdom of Bavaria, and who was eighteen years of age when she came to this country. The late Christian Vaubel, who for many years was a very well respected citizen of Wapakoneta, was born at Dayton, Ohio, in 1836, and was early trained as a tailor. Upon establishing his home at Wapakoneta he opened a tailor shop there and was thus engaged in that business in that city until his death in the summer of 1892. Herman S. Vaubel was but three years of age when his father died. His mother saw to it that his schooling was not neglected and upon completing the course in St. Joseph's parochial school entered the local high school. Upon leaving high school he took up the study of law under the preceptorship of Judge Layton and the latter's son, Roy E. Layton, and after a year of preparatory study under this direction entered the law school of the University of Michigan and in June,

1911, was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He had been admitted to the bar in the state of Ohio in December prior to his graduation and upon receiving his degree also was admitted to practice in the state of Michigan. Upon leaving the university Mr. Vaubel returned to Wapakoneta and entered the law office of Roy E. Layton. In October of the following year (1912) he and Mr. Layton formed a partnership under the firm name of Layton & Vaubel, a mutually agreeable arrangement which continued until Judge Vaubel's entrance upon the duties of the office of judge of probate for Auglaize county, to which office he was appointed on November 14, 1917, by Governor James M. Cox to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Otto J. Boesel, who had been appointed following the death of Judge James C. Kridler, who died in office. Judge Vaubel was indorsed for this appointment by almost the entire bench and bar of this county, his especial fitness for the office being recognized despite his comparative youth, he at that time having been but twenty-eight years of age. In 1920 he was a candidate for re-election, but was defeated in the memorable political overturn of that year. Judge Vaubel has been interested in practical politics from the days of his boyhood and it was not long after his entrance into the practice of law at Wapakoneta until he became recognized as a willing and energetic worker for his party. During the campaign of 1916 he was made chairman of the county Democratic central committee and his work in that year justified fully the highest expectations of his party associates. In the succeeding campaign he was made the party nominee for the office of probate judge and was elected. Upon the completion of his term of service in the probate court in February, 1921, Judge Vauble resumed his practice at Wapakoneta and is now thus engaged, with offices in the Gunther building at the corner of Auglaize and Willippie streets. Judge Vauble is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church and is affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus and the Loyal Order of Moose. Significant of the impression Judge Vaubel created upon his elders at the time of his entrance into the practice of law and of the degree of confidence reposed in his judgment by his associates, it is interesting to recall that in August following his entrance into practice in 1912 a vacancy occurred in the office of justice of the peace in and for Duchouquet township. The young lawyer was appointed to fill out the unexpired term of this magisterial office and thus Judge Vaubel holds what is believed to be the record as having been the youngest magistrate that ever served in Auglaize county, he then having been but twenty-three years of age. On February 16, 1920, Herman S. Vaubel was united in marriage to Elsie C. Orphal, daughted of Julius and Dora Orphal, of Wapakoneta, and to this union two children have been born, Herman S., Jr., and Dorothy Margaret.

GEORGE WILLIAM HOLL, former state senator from this district, a former representative in the lower House of the Ohio General Assembly from this district, president of the Auglaize Tile Company of New Knoxville, a former justice of the peace in and for Washington township, president of the Business Men's Club of New Knoxville, an active dealer in real estate, a former teacher in the schools of this county, and for years one of the best known men in the county, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life, a continuous resident of the pleasant village in which he was born. Mr. Holl was born at New Knoxville on March 19, 1877, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Wierwille) Holl, the latter of whom also was born in that village, a member of one of the pioneer families of that part of the county, the Wierwilles having been early settlers here, as is set out elsewhere in this work. The late George Holl was a native of Germany and grew to manhood in his native land, becoming a skilled shoemaker. When past twenty-five years of age he came to this country with one of his brothers, making the trip on a sailing vessel which was fourteen weeks in making the passage. He landed at the port of New York with but 20 cents in his pocket and lost little time in "working his way" over into Pennsylvania, one of the German-speaking communities of that state having been his objective upon coming to this country. While there he learned of the conditions of settlement then existing over in this section of Ohio and became attracted to the possibilities that awaited the newcomer here. With nothing but the knowledge of his trade and an earnest willingness to do his part in the labors of the community, he came to Auglaize county and set up a shoemaker's shop at New Knoxville. Not long afterward he married Elizabeth Wierwille and established his home there. In that village he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1891. His widow survived until 1911. To George Holl and wife were born six children, the subject of this sketch (the first born) having four sisters, Rosa, Rebecca, Elizabeth and Mary, and a brother, Edward Holl. Reared at New Knoxville, George W. Holl received his early schooling in the excellent schools of that village and completed the common school course by attendance for two years and six months in the high school at St. Marys, often walking daily back and forth from his home to St. Marys in order to secure the advantage of the high school course. Having been bereft of his father when he was but fourteen years of age, Mr. Holl—as the elder son—early found devolving upon him the duty of contributing to the support of his widowed mother and the younger children of the family. Upon leaving the high school he secured a license to teach school, and for nine years thereafter was engaged during the winters in teaching in the schools of this county, during that time acquiring a wide and valuable acquaintance

GEORGE WILLIAM HOLL

throughout the county. A portion of his vacation periods was utilized in advancing his schooling by attendance at the Ohio Northern University at Ada, and he meanwhile was developing other interests with a view to getting into business, among these interests having been that taken in the affairs of the New Knoxville Hoop Company, of which he was elected secretary. In 1908 he became one of the active promoters in the organization of the Auglaize Tile Company of New Knoxville and was elected president of that flourishing concern, a position he still occupies, one of the best known figures in the industrial life of the community, and the controlling stockholder in the company of which he is the head. In addition to this business, Mr. Holl also has for twenty years been actively engaged in the real estate business, with particular reference to farm sales, and is also widely known as an appraiser of real estate, his accurate knowledge of land values giving to his services in this connection a value that is widely appreciated hereabout. As a promoter of local interests in and about his home town, Mr. Holl has for years been regarded as one of the real "live wires" of that community, his activities in this connection having included his promotion of the telephone, electric light and natural gas companies there and his active participation in their affairs. He was one of the organizers of the New Knoxville commercial or business men's club and is the present president of that useful body. Diligent in business, Mr. Holl has naturally done well in the various enterprises with which he is connected, and in addition to his other holdings has farm lands of considerable value. He has a pleasant home in the village of New Knoxville, and he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Holl is an ardent Democrat and has for many years been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in this county. Even as a young man, his capacity for public service was recognized by his neighbors when he was elected a member of the local board of education of New Knoxville and he was made secretary of that body. Then the people of Washington township elected him a justice of the peace, and for four years he served in that magisterial capacity. In 1912, following one of the hardest fought preliminary campaigns that was ever carried on in Auglaize county, Mr. Holl received the nomination to the office of representative from this county in the lower House of the General Assembly of the state of Ohio, and was continued in that important representative body by re-election for four years, at the end of which time, in 1916, he was made the nominee of his party as this district's representative in the state Senate and was elected, continuing also to serve in this body for four years, a continuous period of eight years of legislative service, during which he naturally acquired a state-wide acquaintance. During his service in the House, Mr. Holl introduced several

bills that became laws, one of the most notable of which was his bill requiring state banks to bear the expense incident to their formal examination. During his service in the Senate he was a member of the important finance committee of that body and thus became one of the leaders of the Senate. He was serving in that body during the time of this country's participation in the World war, and when in 1918 the important committee on Americanization was created was made a member of that committee. Upon his retirement from the Senate he was, by special appointment of Governor Davis, retained as a member of that committee, his services in that behalf having been recognized as having special value. Since his retirement from public life, Mr. Holl has been devoting his attention closely to his own private affairs, though still keeping in close touch with the general civic situation in the state. On June 17, 1903, George W. Holl was united in marriage to Emily Holtkamp, daughter of William Holtkamp, a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, and to this union have been born five children, Olga, Carl, Margaret, Marian and Grace. Mr. and Mrs. Holl are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville and have for years taken a warm interest in the affairs of that influential congregation. For thirty years Mr. Holl has been one of the singers in the choir of that church, and for the past eleven or twelve years has been the choirister. When the extensive rebuilding program adopted by the Reformed church a year ago was put in operation, he was elected a member of the building committee, and has thus done his part in that fine bit of extension work, acting as secretary of the committee.

FRANK P. CONNAUGHTON, a veteran of the World war, solicitor for the city of Wapakoneta and a practicing attorney in that city, member of the law firm of Hoskins, Stout & Connaughton, one of the old established law firms of Auglaize county, was born at Wapakoneta and has been a resident of that city all his life save for the period spent away completing his studies and the time spent in army service during the World war. Mr. Connaughton was born on July 11, 1894, and is a son of J. J. and Lena (Jacobs) Connaughton, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. The late Hon. J. J. Connaughton, former recorder of Auglaize county, former representative from this district in the General Assembly of the state of Ohio and for years one of the county's leading attorneys, with offices at Wapakoneta, where he had made his home for years, was born in Butler county, this state, and was but a youth of fifteen years when he came to Auglaize county with his parents, Michael Connaughton and wife, the family settling on a farm in section 19 of Moulton township, just west of Glynwood.

There J. J. Connaughton grew to manhood and became qualified as a school teacher, a vocation he followed for several years during the winters, meanwhile continuing farming during the summers, until his election to the office of recorder of Auglaize county. By re-election he served three terms in that office (1888-94) and while thus engaged in the public service occupied his leisure by reading law. Upon leaving the recorder's office Mr. Connaughton was admitted to the bar and not long afterward formed a partnership for practice with C. A. Stueve, a mutually agreeable arrangement that continued until Mr. Connaughton's election as representative from this district in the lower House of the state Legislature. By re-election he served two terms in that important public capacity (1909-13) and upon completion of this term of service resumed his practice at Wapakoneta, having in 1913 effected a partnership with S. A. Hoskins and Lewis Stout, this law firm practicing under the name of Hoskins, Connaughton & Stout, with offices in the Peoples National Bank building, and so continued until his death on August 29, 1919. In 1882 J. J. Connaughton was united in marriage to Lena Jacobs, of this county, daughter of Leopold and Theresa Jacobs, both of whom were of European birth, and to this union were born nine children, five of whom are living. Frank P. Connaughton was reared at Wapakoneta and was graduated from the high school there in 1912. Under the thoughtful preceptorship of his father he was being also grounded in the rudiments of the law and upon leaving high school entered the law school of Ohio Northern University at Ada and in 1917 was graduated from that institution. This was just after this country had taken a hand in the World war and upon leaving the university he offered his services in behalf of American arms and in that same year was sent to the training camp at Camp Sherman (Chillicothe, Ohio), where he remained until he was honorably discharged late in 1918, the war then being over. In the meantime he had been admitted to the bar and upon his return to Wapakoneta in 1919 became engaged in practice there, succeeding his father as a member of the old law firm with which the latter had been connected, and has since been thus engaged, the firm now being Hoskins, Stout & Connaughton. Mr. Connaughton is a Democrat and has come to be looked upon as one of the leaders among the young men of that party in this county. In 1921 he was elected solicitor for the city of Wapakoneta and entered upon the duties of that office on the following January 1 and is thus still serving in that capacity. On November 25, 1919, Frank P. Connaughton was united in marriage to Pauline Hoegner, daughter of John G. and Lettie Hoegner, of Wapakoneta, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Charlotte Anne. Mr. and Mrs. Connaughton are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church and Mr. Con-

naughton is one of the active members of the local council of the Knights of Columbus. He also is affiliated with the local post of the American Legion and with the college fraternity Delta Theta Phi and is a member of the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Loyal Order of Moose, in the affairs and deliberations of all of which bodies he takes a warm personal interest. He and his wife have a pleasant home at Wapakoneta and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the city's general social and cultural activities.

CHARLES F. HERKENHOFF, president of the Minster Machine Company, secretary and treasurer of the Star Beverage Company of Minster, and formerly and for years engaged in the mercantile business at that place, was born at Minster and has lived there all his life. Mr. Herkenhoff was born on September 3, 1864, and is a son of Frank and Mary (Gausepohl) Herkenhoff, both of whom also were born at Minster, their respective parents, natives of Germany, having been among the original settlers of that town when the Stallo colony became established there in the early '30s of the past century. The late Frank Herkenhoff was a son of the pioneer baker Herkenhoff, whose products were widely distributed throughout the settlement in the days of the pioneers, and who also carried on a cooperage business. From his father, Frank Herkenhoff acquired the cooper's trade, and in due time became the owner of a cooperage of his own at Minster, a business he operated for forty years, the output of his shop being taken over by the Armour packing house at Chicago, this old cooper shop in its day giving employment to forty or fifty men at Minster. Frank Herkenhoff also was actively interested in other local lines, for years president of the old Star Brewing Company, whose "Wooden Shoe" brand of product for many years was widely distributed throughout this section, and also for some time was a member of the board of directors and president of the Citizens Bank of Minster, and an active factor in the operations of the Minster Machine Company, interests that he retained after he had retired from the cooperage business, and thus continued active in business until his death on October 23, 1918. His widow is still living at Minster. They were the parents of eight children, seven of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having five sisters, Josephine, Caroline, Adelia, Frances and Alice, and a brother, Anton L. Herkenhoff, who is associated with him in the operation of the Minster Machine Company, and concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Charles F. Herkenhoff was reared at Minster and his schooling was completed at St. Marys College, Dayton, which he left in 1883. Upon his return from college he became a clerk in the Laufersweiler hard-

CHARLES F. HERKENHOFF

ware store at Minster, and after three years of such service transferred his services to the Schneider store, hardware, groceries and liquors, and two years later bought that establishment and became engaged in business for himself. That was in 1888, and for fifteen years thereafter Mr. Herkenhoff was engaged in the mercantile business, or until 1903, when he sold the store in order to give his attention to the affairs of the Star Brewing Company, of which he was made secretary-treasurer and general manager, a dual position which he still occupies, this concern now being known as the Star Beverage Company, manufacturers of soft drinks, its chief product retaining the old trade name "Wooden Shoe," which in the days of real beer "made Minster famous" throughout a wide trade area hereabout. In 1901, when the Minster Machine Company was organized, Mr. Herkenhoff was elected president of that concern, of which his brother, Anton, is the general manager, and still occupies that position. Mr. Herkenhoff is a Democrat and has rendered public service as a member of the town council and as treasurer of the local school board. He is affiliated with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and he and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church. Charles F. Herkenhoff married Bernardine Meyer, daughter of Bernard Meyer, and to this union six children have been born, all of whom are living save one, Vera, who died at the age of six years, the others being Frank, Wilfred, Agnes, Loretta and Elsie. Agnes Herkenhoff married Frank Pining and has one child, a son, Donald.

LEWIS M. BLANK, a well known and veteran member of the excellent teaching staff of the Auglaize county schools and equally well known over the routes he covers as a substitute carrier on the rural mail routes out of Wapakoneta during the summers, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has resided in this county all his life. Mr. Blank was born on a farm in section 29 of Union township, about a mile southeast of the village of Uniopolis, July 23, 1869, and is a son of George A. and Susanna (Noeker) Blank, Pennsylvanians, who had come out here in 1852, shortly following their marriage, as a part of a group of young married couples from their neighborhood in Pennsylvania who had formed an emigrant wagon train and had moved over into western Ohio to take up new lands and establish homes for themselves in what then was little more than a wilderness hereabout. George A. Blank bought a tract of something more than 180 acres in sections 20 and 29 of Union township, in this county, established his home on that place, improved the same, and continued to live there until his retirement in 1886 and removal to the nearby village of Uniopolis, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there in 1912, he then being eighty-four years of age. His wife died in 1907, she having

been seventy-nine years of age at the time of her death. It was on this pioneer farm in Union township that Lewis M. Blank was born and reared. He completed his schooling in the Uniopolis schools and at the age of nineteen years was licensed to teach school. That was in 1888 that Mr. Blank taught his first school and with but a brief intermission he has been engaged in teaching ever since. His first school was taught in Duchouquet township and during the current school year (1921-22) he taught in the Winegardner school in Pusheta township, his service mainly having been rendered in the rural schools. In his younger years Mr. Blank occupied his summers by working at the carpenter trade, which he had learned as a young man, and for four years he was employed as a carpenter in the works of the Western Ohio Electric Railway, but with that exception he has spent his winters since 1888 in the school room. Of recent years his summers have been occupied in driving substitute on the rural mail routes out of Wapakoneta and he thus has acquired an additionally wide acquaintance throughout the district thus covered. It is Mr. Blank's contention that one's schooling is never completed and that education of the individual is thus a continuing process. This he follows in his own practice and by incessant reading and extensive literary research keeps himself fully informed on modern developments in the science of education and along kindred lines, each year being thus able to bring to his school work a freshness of thought that is stimulating not only to himself but to his pupils. In 1917 Lewis Blank was united in marriage to Mrs. Caroline M. (Elsass) Lammers, widow of J. H. Lammers, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at 208 Court street. Mrs. Blank was born in Clay township, this county, and is a daughter of Jacob and Mary Elsass, well known residents of that township. Mr. and Mrs. Blank are Democrats and attend the St. Paul's Lutheran church. Mr. Blank is a Freemason, a member of the blue lodge of Masons at Waynesfield, of the chapter, Royal Arch Masons, at Wapakoneta, and of the council, Royal and Select Masters, at St. Marys and is affiliated with the El Karan grotto at Lima.

FRANK SCHMUECKER, a well known merchant tailor and clothier at Minster, and a former member of the Minster town council, former town and township treasurer and present member of the local school board, has been a resident of Minster since he was five years of age and has thus been a witness to and a participant in the development which has marked that town in the past fifty years. Mr. Schmuecker was born in Covington, Ky., April 11, 1865, and is a son of Frank and Ida (Stratman) Schmuecker, natives of Germany, who became residents of Minster a few years later and whose last days were spent there. The late Frank Schmuecker (Sr.) was trained as a a tailor in the old country and remained there until he

was thirty years of age, when he came to America and located at Covington, Ky., where he followed his trade until 1870, when he came up into this part of Ohio and located at Minster, where in the year following he opened a tailor shop in the building now occupied by his son and was there engaged in business the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1900. He had been trained as a tailor by his father, whose name also was Frank, a practical tailor in the old country, and at his death was succeeded by his son Frank, who in turn was well trained by him, three generations of Frank Schmueckers thus having been engaged successively in this business, and as the present proprietor of the business has named his son Frank there is a likelihood that the succession may be carried on unbroken, both as to name and to business. Frank Schmuecker (II) and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom but two now survive, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Fannie. As will be noted by a comparison of the above dates, Frank Schmuecker (III) was but five years of age when his parents located at Minster in 1870 and he was reared in that town. He supplemented the schooling received in the local schools by a course at St. Marys Institute, at Dayton, and then became associated with his father in the tailoring business at Minster, working for the latter until 1900, when he took over the business and has since been carrying it on. Mr. Schmuecker has a well equipped and well stocked establishment and his place carries with it an air of neatness and efficiency rarely to be observed in tailor shops in towns of like population. In addition to his custom tailoring business Mr. Schmuecker carries a select line of ready-to-wear men's clothing and is doing well in business. Mr. Schmuecker is a Democrat, and has long given his interested attention to local civic affairs, having served as a member of the town council, as town and township treasurer and is now a member of the local school board. He was one of the organizers of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at Minster and was first grand knight of that council. He has attained to the fourth degree in the Knights of Columbus and was one of the organizers of the local body of the Knights of St. John at Minster, has held all the offices in that body and has served as district adjutant of the Knights of St. John in this state. He also is past president of the St. Boniface Benevolent Society and is a member of the St. Augustine Society and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Mr. Schmuecker married Louise Steinemann, daughter of Charles Steinemann and granddaughter of John H. Steinemann, prominent figures in the development of the commercial and industrial life of Minster, and to this union have been born three children, Marie, Frank (IV) and Emma. The Schmueckers are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church and take an interested part in parish affairs.

FRED BROCKMAN, one of German township's best known and most progressive farmers and a substantial landowner living on rural mail route No. 1 out of New Bremen, proprietor of an excellent farm there, where he has made his home for the past thirteen or fourteen years, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived in this county all his life. Mr. Brockman was born on a farm in St. Marys township on September 19, 1867, and is a son of Herman and Mary (Borienbrock) Brockman, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families of German township. Herman Brockman was born in Germany and was but a child when he came to this country with his parents, Harmon Brockman and wife, the family settling in the New Bremen neighborhood about the time work was begun on the canal back in the late '30s of the past century. Before he was ten years of age, Herman Brockman began working on the canal as the driver of a dump car, and his youth was spent in labors connected with the canal traffic. After his marriage he bought a farm in the southwest corner of St. Marys township and there established his home, remaining there until his retirement and removal to town, where his last days were spent. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, as is set out elsewhere in this work. Of these children six are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Caroline and Regina, and three brothers, Henry, William and Benjamin Brockman. It was on the home farm in St. Marys township that Fred Brockman grew to manhood. He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained at home, aiding in the labors of developing and improving the home place of ninety-two acres, until after his marriage, when he bought that place, his father retiring at that time. There he continued to make his home until 1909, when he sold the farm and bought his present place of 120 acres in German township, where he has since resided and where he and his famliy are very comfortably situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Brockman has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, and has done well. He has improved the place greatly since he took possession and has one of the best farm plants in the neighborhood. It was in 1888 that Fred Brockman was united in marriage to Dora Huenke, also a member of one of the pioneer families of the New Bremen neighborhood, daughter of Fred Huenke, and to this union were born five children, Selma, Leona, Dorothy, Forest and Esther, the two latter of whom died in infancy. The mother of these children died in 1905, and Mr. Brockman then married Hannah Peck, daughter of Adolph and Elizabeth Peck. Mr. and Mrs. Brockman are members of the St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen and are Republicans. For years Mr. Brockman has been looked upon as one of the leaders of his party in that part of the county and for

FRED BROCKMAN

ten years served as a member of the Republican county central committee. Selma Brockman married Henry Dorsten and has four children, Addison, Robert, Ellsworth and Frederick. Leona Brockman married Theodore Giesekie and has one child, a daughter, Blanche, and Dorothy Brockman married Raymond Kettler and has two children, Lucile and Norman.

JOHN F. FINKE, sexton of Elm Grove and Gethsemane (Catholic) cemeteries at St. Marys, a position he has occupied for more than thirty years and during which time he has brought these cemeteries to a state of park-like beauty exceeded by but few cemeteries in the state of Ohio, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Finke was born on a farm in St. Marys township on February 26, 1865, and is a son of Benjamin and Henrietta (Hilgeman) Finke, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families in the New Bremen neighborhood. Benjamin Finke was the owner of a farm of eighty acres in St. Marys township and died there in 1875, leaving his widow with four children, all of whom are still living, and two children by a former marriage, both now deceased, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Caroline and Sophia, and a brother, Henry Finke. The Widow Finke married George Koenig and spent the rest of her life on the farm, which later was bought by John F. Finke from the other heirs. John F. Finke was but ten years of age when his father died and he early began to "do for himself," at the age of thirteen years beginning to work as a farm hand in the neighborhood. He received his schooling in the local district school and continued to work as a farm hand until his marriage in 1889, when he was given his present position as sexton of the Elm Grove and Gethsemane cemeteries, which lie adjacent to each other at the southwestern edge of the city, with the highway between. Elm Grove cemetery has an area of twenty-three acres and Gethsemane (the Catholic cemetery), which was laid out some years after Elm Grove was established, has an area of ten acres. Mr. Finke has charge of both cemeteries and the pride he has taken for years in keeping these beautiful "cities of the dead" in proper condition is reflected in the admirable park-like appearance now presented by them. Included in the sexton's parking equipment is a power lawn mower and he keeps employed at all times a force of at least three men and at times double this number. Mr. Finke and his wife are members of St. Paul's Reformed church at St. Marys and he is affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and the Knights of Maccabees at that place. On October 3, 1889, John F. Finke was united in marriage to Sarah Bodterscher, who was born at Bluffton, in the neighboring county of Allen, daughter of the Rev. Christ and Mary (Gratz) Bodterscher, and to this union five children

have been born, Amelia, Clara, Anna, Noah and Amanda, in addition to whom Mr. and Mrs. Fink are rearing in their home Arthur Koenig, a grandson of Mr. Finke's stepfather and who has been a member of the Finke household since he was twelve years of age and is now completing his schooling in the Bliss Business College at Columbus. Noah Finke, the son of this family and proprietor of the St. Marys marble and granite works, married Carrie Kellermeyer and has two children, Clifford and Annabel. Amelia Finke married Peter Schoeneberger, now proprietor of a bakery at Chicago, and has two children, Mary E. and Alma. Miss Clara Finke fitted herself for teaching and is now teaching the fourth grade in the Bunker Hill school at St. Marys. Anna Finke married George Loeding and is now living in Chicago, where Mr. Loeding is engaged as an electrician. Miss Amanda Finke, who early fitted herself to become a trained nurse, is now living at Columbus, Ohio, a nurse in the Evangelical Deaconess hospital in that city.

FRANK D. AUSMAN, one of St. Marys well known merchants, proprietor of a well equipped jewelry store in that city and formerly, and for years a member of the local board of education, has been a resident of this county since the days of his childhood. Mr. Ausman was born in Pomeroy, in Meigs county, this state, January 28, 1868, and is a son of Frank and Theresa (Strenger) Ausman, both natives of Germany, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, and who were married in Auglaize county. They later moved to Meigs county, but after awhile returned to Auglaize county and became residents of Wapakoneta, where their last days were spent. The senior Frank Ausman died in 1880 and his widow survived him for more than twenty years, her death occurring in 1903. Frank D. Ausman was reared at Wapakoneta and there received his schooling. He early became employed in the Hartman jewelry store in that city and there became thoroughly trained in "the art and mystery" of the jeweler's craft, and with the conditions relating to local trade in that line, and remained with the Hartmans until 1894, a year or two following his marriage, when he moved to St. Marys and in the latter city opened a jewelry store and has ever since been a resident of that city, long recognized as one of the leading merchants of the town. For more than twenty-five years Mr. Ausman has been engaged in business at St. Marys and in that time has seen many important changes in local business conditions. He long ago had to move from the store room in which he opened his establishment at St. Marys, growing trade demanding more extensive quarters, and he now has a well equipped and amply stocked establishment at 143 East Spring street, in the very heart of the retail trade district. Mr. Ausman is a Democrat,

and has for years given his earnest attention to local civic affairs. For seventeen years he served as a member of the board of education at St. Marys, acting during that time as clerk of the board, and in other ways has been helpful in public service. He has prospered in business and is a member of the board of directors of the Home Banking Company of St. Marys. Fraternally, he is affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at St. Marys and with the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. It was on June 21, 1893, that Frank D. Ausman was united in marriage to Mayme Wenk, of Wapakoneta, and to this union two sons have been born, Harold John and Frank Louis, the latter of whom is still in high school. Upon completing the course in the local schools Harold J. Ausman entered upon a course in optometry and is now in charge of the optical department of his father's store, one of the best known young optometrists in this section of the state.

HARRY KOMMINSK, secretary-treasurer of the White Mountain Creamery Company of New Bremen, an alumnus of Ohio State University and a member of the county board of education, is a native son of Auglaize county, and has resided here all his life. Mr. Komminsk was born at Lock 2 (formerly known as New Paris) on the Miami & Erie canal just to the northeast of New Bremen, February 10, 1887, and is a son of John and Mary Louise (Huckriede) Komminsk, the latter of whom also was born in German township, a member of one of the pioneer families of Auglaize county. John Komminsk, who is now living retired at New Bremen, was born in Germany and was there early bereft of his parents. As an orphan boy he came to this country and through the kindness of friends secured a home in Cincinnati, where he was trained as a blacksmith and carriage maker, remaining there until he was well established at his trade, when he came up into this part of Ohio and located at Lock 2 (New Paris), which then was promising to become a thriving industrial center but which, with the passing of the canal, abandoned most of its hopes of development. Mr. Komminsk opened a smithy and carriage making shop at Lock 2 and after his marriage established his home there and continued operating along that line until his retirement from business and removal to New Bremen, where he is now living. To him and his wife were born eight children, six of whom are now living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Martha, wife of Fred Thiesing; Frank, Hilda (widow of William Burke), Carl and Naomi, wife of Arnold Henke. Reared at Lock 2, Harry Komminsk received his primary schooling in the schools of that place and then entered the New Bremen high school, from which he was graduated in 1905. For two years thereafter he taught school in the neighboring county of Shelby and then entered Ohio State Uni-

versity, from which he was graduated in 1911, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Upon his return from college Mr. Komminsk became employed as a bookkeeper in the office of the White Mountain Creamery Company at New Bremen and in the following year, 1912, having proved himself in this time an efficient adjunct to the business, was elected secretary and treasurer of the company and has since been serving in that important capacity. Mr. Komminsk is a Republican, with "independent" leanings, and is now serving the public as a member of the county board of education. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of the Reformed church, in which congregation he has served as a deacon. In 1913, the year following his entrance as an officer into the affairs of the White Mountain Creamery Company, Harry Komminsk was united in marriage to Gertrude Huenke, daughter of Louis Huenke, president of that company (further and fitting mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume) and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Louis and Dorothy. The Komminsks have a very pleasant home at New Bremen and Mr. and Mrs. Komminsk have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the community.

HENRY D. KOEPER, former township treasurer and a well-known hardware merchant at St. Marys, where he has made his home for the past thirty years and more, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Koeper was born on a farm in German township, this county, in the near vicinity of New Bremen, January 16, 1870, and is a son of Henry and Anna (Siemer) Koeper, both now deceased, the death of the latter occurring on November 22, 1890. She was born on March 9, 1831. The late Henry Koeper, who for years was one of the substantial farmers of the New Bremen neighborhood, was born on March 8, 1826, in Hanover, Germany, and was there trained as a carpenter. When he had attained his majority he came to this country and made his way on out into Ohio, settling at New Bremen, where he became engaged at his trade. Some time later he bought a farm in the vicinity of New Bremen, an excellent tract of 140 acres, and having in the meantime married, established his home on that farm and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on July 2, 1913. To him and his wife were born six children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mary, wife of William Bruggemann, and a brother, Conrad Koeper. Reared on the home farm in German township, Henry D. Koeper received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood, and when nineteen

HENRY D. KOEPER

years of age became employed in the dry goods store of David Armstrong at St. Marys, where he became familiar with commercial forms and the needs of the local trade and laid the groundwork for the substantial success he later was to achieve when he became engaged in business on his own account. For five years Mr. Koeper remained in the Armstrong store, and then in 1894 he became associated with W. R. Dunan and bought a hardware store at St. Marys, a business in which he ever since has been engaged, a period covering now nearly thirty years. In 1913 his partnership with Mr. Dunan was dissolved and he since has been carrying on the business alone, one of the best known and most substantial merchants in the city. In June, 1912, Henry D. Koeper was united in marriage to Ida Hurm, who was born in St. Marys, daughter of Charles and Mary E. (Drum) Hurm, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at St. Marys. He is a member of the German Reformed church, and his wife is a member of Holy Rosary Catholic church. Mr. Koeper is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. He is a Democrat and has rendered public service as treasurer of St. Marys township. He has other business interests and is a member of the directorate of the Leader Printing Company.

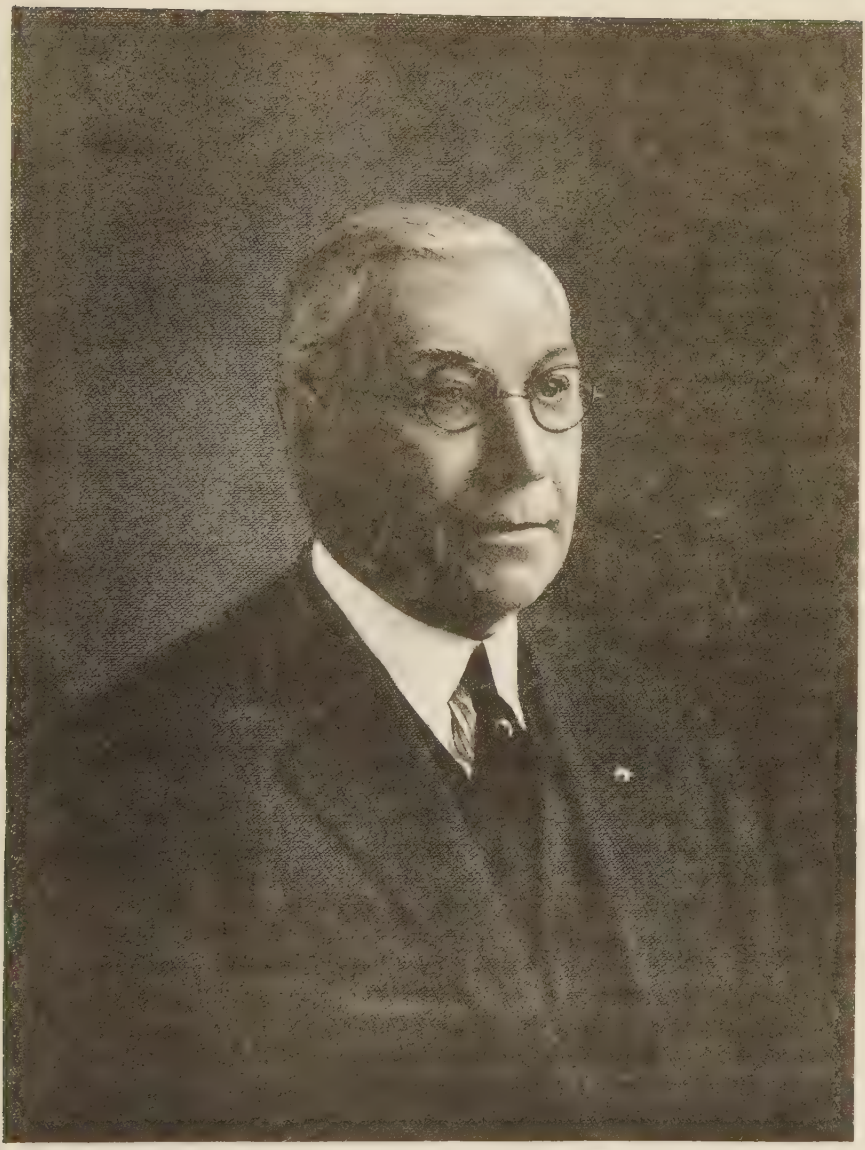
EDWARD STEINEMANN, president of the local school board at Minster, formerly and for years a member of the Minster town council, for years engaged in the grain and mercantile business there, now carrying on in the third generation the business established at that place by his grandfather in pioneer days, and long regarded as one of the most substantial factors in the commercial life of that community, the extensive Steinemann interests touching many lines of endeavor thereabout, was born at Minster and has lived there all his life, his activities ever having been directed along commercial lines. Mr. Steinemann was born on February 3, 1869, and is a son of Theodore B. and Mary Elizabeth (Wuendeln) Steinemann, the latter of whom also was born at Minster, a member of one of the first families there. The late Theodore B. Steinemann was born on a farm three miles west of Minster on January 1, 1839, and was a son of John H. and Catherine G. (Meyers) Steinemann, who had settled there following their marriage about a year prior to that date, and who became early recognized as among the most useful and influential residents of the Minster community. John H. Steinemann, the pioneer and founder of the family in this county, was a European by birth, born in the old constitutional ducal monarchy of Oldenburg in northern Germany, October 28, 1808, and was well past his majority when in 1832 he came to America and after a sojourn of two or three years at Cincinnati and in the South came up into this part of Ohio

in 1835, following his marriage to Catherine G. Meyers, and established his home on an uncleared tract of land in the then wilderness three miles west of the Stallo settlement (now Minster), which had been established a year or two before in what then was Mercer county but which in 1848 became a part of the new county of Auglaize. He cleared that farm and after living there two or three years bought an extensive tract of land just at the west edge of the original plat of Stallo Town (Minster) and there made his permanent home, the rest of his life being spent there. Upon locating on this latter place in 1837 John H. Steinemann erected a brick kiln and established the brick yard which for years thereafter he operated, supplying the brick which entered into the erection of all the old brick houses in Minster and some of which are still standing, interesting relics of the pioneer period of the town's growth. He also developed considerable agricultural interests and at the same time became engaged in mercantile pursuits in connection with the extensive canal trade which meanwhile was being developed at Minster following the opening of the canal in 1845 and in 1850 he erected a brick store building and warehouse for the accommodation of his growing mercantile, grain and general produce and pork-packing interests, and thus early became recognized as one of the most forceful factors in the development of the business interests of that town. In civic affairs he also took an interested and helpful part, for years serving as justice of the peace, and in other ways did what he could to give an impetus to proper development thereabout, and thus continued active in affairs until his death, which occurred on January 15, 1877. His wife had preceded him to the grave about five years, her death having occurred on May 23, 1872. This useful pioneer couple had five children, four sons, John H., Theodore B., Frank J. and Charles, and a daughter, Mary, and the sons carried on the Steinemann interests after their father's death. In the Sutton "Atlas of Auglaize County" (1880) there is carried a full page devoted to a pictorial representation of the Steinemann interests at Minster, a collection of inestimable value to the family today. Particularly interesting in this group of pictures is that setting out the old Steinemann store, grain elevator and packing house and a picture of a canal boat lined up in the canal alongside the Steinemann brick yard awaiting a cargo. How valuable such old pictures become in succeeding generations! Theodore B. Steinemann, the second born of the children of John H. Steinemann, began to help his father in the latter's business affairs when but twelve years of age and was thereafter a constant and helpful associate of the elder Steinemann until the latter's death, this help being made more effective and practical by reason of a course taken in St. Marys College at Cincinnati after he had attained his majority. In the division of the estate following

his father's death he became the successor to that part of the business relating to the store and the grain and pork-packing interests and as merchant and grain dealer continued to develop the business to meet the growing community demands and so remained in business the rest of his life. He increased the grain elevator to its present capacity and brought the plant up to modern standards, and in 1912 erected the present commodious store room, 40 by 80, two floors and a basement, in which the Steinemann mercantile business is carried on. In addition to these interests, in 1883, Theodore B. Steinemann, in association with his brother Charles, bought the old Minster brewery, which not long afterward was destroyed by fire and they then erected the present substantial brewery plant, which in 1890 they sold to the Star Brewing Company. He also was a large landowner in this county and had property at Piqua, as well as other substantial interests. He was a Democrat and gave proper attention to civic affairs, for some time serving as township clerk and he also for years held a commission as a notary public. He and his wife were members of the Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. His death occurred on February 9, 1922, and he left a good memory at his passing, for he had been helpful in many ways in the community in which his useful life was passed. It was in 1863 that Theodore B. Steinemann was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth Wuendeln, who survives him, and to this union were born nine children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having five sisters, Rose, Emily, Elenora, Luetta and Cecelia, and three brothers, John, Louis and George Steinemann. Reared at Minster, Edward Steinemann received his schooling in the schools of that place and early became associated with his father in the several lines of business carried on by the latter and thus literally "grew up" with the business, to which he succeeded following his father's death and is now carrying on, in the third generation planning developments in the mercantile and grain trade of the business so carefully developed in their respective generations by his grandfather and by his father and which no doubt will be carried on by his sons in their generation, for the Steinemann interests are substantial and give promise of permanency. Edward Steinemann is a Democrat and for six years served as a member of the town council and now is president of the local school board. He is one of the active members of the Minster Commercial Club, was for some years president of the St. Boniface Benevolent Society and is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the St. Augustine's Orphans Society. He and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church and he is the secretary of the board of trustees of the valuable property held in that extensive parish. Mr. Steinemann married Elizabeth Depweg, daughter of C. D. and

Mary Ann (Kramer) Depweg, and to this union have been born six children, Marie, Eugene, Pauline, Matilda, Richard and Elenora. The Steinemanns have a very pleasant home at Minster and have ever taken an interested part in the general social and cultural affairs of the community.

C. W. TIMMERMEISTER, secretary of the Eastern Auglaize chapter of the American Red Cross and one of the best known men in Auglaize county, a retired merchant of Wapakoneta with numerous outlying interests, including banking and manufacturing, is a native son of Auglaize county, born at Wapakoneta, and has lived here all his life, a period of sixty years, and has thus been a part of the developing commercial life of that city ever since the days when it entered upon a practically reconstructive era forty years and more ago. Mr. Timmermeister was born on January 10, 1862, and is a son of John H. and Caroline (Machetanz) Timmermeister, both natives of Germany, the latter born in Pfaeh, who were married in St. Marys. The late John H. Timmermeister, who for many years was one of the leading merchants of Wapakoneta, was born in the vicinity of Osnabruck, in the then kingdom of Hanover, in northern Germany, April 13, 1831, and was a son of Wilhelm and Clara Timmermeister. In his youth he served an apprenticeship at the tinner's trade and continued working at that trade there until in July, 1851, he then being in his twenty-first year, when he came to America, arriving at the port of New York in the following September. For about four years he remained in that city, a part of the time working at his trade, and later becoming engaged as a clerk in a mercantile establishment, and then came out here into Ohio to put in his lot with that of some old-country friends at New Bremen. He became attracted at once to the possibilities at Wapakoneta, the county seat, and on July 15, 1855, became engaged there as a clerk in Otto T. Dieker's dry goods store, then one of the leading establishments of the kind in this section of Ohio. He "made good" as a clerk, and not long afterward Mr. Dieker took him into the business as a partner, an arrangement which continued until in the spring of 1859, when Mr. Timmermeister retired from the firm and started in business for himself, opening a store in a small frame building which stood on the present site of the handsome Timmermeister building on Auglaize street, which was erected in 1885. In the summer of that same year (1859) Mr. Timmermeister married and definitely established his home at Wapakoneta. He carried on his business successfully, his family meanwhile growing up about him, and in 1881 he took into partnership with him his son, C. W. Timmermeister, the business then being carried on under the firm style of J. H. Timmermeister & Son, and it was under this co-operation that the present Timmermeister building was erected in 1885. The elder



C. W. Timmermeister.

Timmermeister meanwhile had been developing other interests in the town, particularly his connection with the wheel works, and not long afterward his son-in-law, W. S. Rogers, was admitted to the firm, the business thereafter being carried on under the firm style of Timmermeister & Rogers (the present W. S. Rogers' Sons Company), the elder Timmermeister then retiring from the store and thereafter giving his attention to his other interests, including his connection with the First National Bank, of which he was one of the organizers and a member of the board of directors, and with the Wapakoneta Wheel and Spoke Company, of which he also was one of the organizers, and so continued until his death, which occurred on October 29, 1902, he then being in his seventy-second year. It was on August 22, 1859, that John H. Timmermeister was united in marriage to Caroline Machetanz. To this union were born eight children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Bertha, Carrie, Lulu and Emma, and a brother, Carl Timmermeister. Reared at Wapakoneta, C. W. Timmermeister completed the course in the public schools there, and supplemented this by a course in the Miami Business College at Dayton, and when twenty-three years of age was admitted as a partner in his father's commercial establishment at Wapakoneta, as has been set out above. He continued active in this business until his retirement from the store in 1906 in order to give his personal attention to his inherited interest in the affairs of the Wapakoneta Wheel Company, of which he had been elected secretary, and with which concern he remained actively connected until its reorganization in 1910, since which time he has lived semi-retired from active business life, though continuing the various business connections he had acquired during his long and active career. Included among these are his vice-presidency of the St. Marys Woolen Manufacturing Company, his position on the board of directors of the First National Bank of Wapakoneta and on the boards of the Wapakoneta Building and Savings Company and of the Wapakoneta Wheel Company, his vice-presidency of the City Loan and Savings Company and his secretaryship of the Greenlawn Cemetery Association. Mr. Timmermeister is a Democrat, but has not been a seeker after public office, the only political position he has held having been that of city clerk, to which he was elected when he was twenty-one years of age, and which he occupied for four years. In 1917, when under the stress of war activities the local chapters of the American Red Cross were being organized throughout the state, Mr. Timmermeister was elected secretary of the Eastern Auglaize chapter of this beneficent society and has since held that position, having in this capacity done much toward maintaining the successful continuance of the chapter since the close of the war. He also is the secretary and treasurer of the Auglaize County Good

Roads Federation, and in this capacity has done much to promote the cause of good roads hereabout during the past few years. Mr. Timmermeister is a thirty-second degree Mason, affiliated with the consistory at Dayton, and is a past worshipful master of the local lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, at Wapakoneta. He also is a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with Antioch Temple at Dayton, and is a member of the Wapakoneta lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and an active Kiwanian. In 1887 C. W. Timmermeister was united in marriage to Tasa Althausen, daughter of Albert Althausen, who in his generation was one of the leading business men of St. Marys, one of the first bankers in the town, as is set out elsewhere in this work, and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Edwin B. and Lillian, both of whom are married. Edwin B. Timmermeister, who is now living at Lima, married Kathleen Comer and has one child, a son, John William. Lillian Timmermeister married Karl Machetanz and is now living at Exeter, Cal. Mr. and Mrs. Timmermeister are members of St. Paul's Evangelical church and have for years taken an interested part in church affairs. Mr. Timmermeister was a member of the building committee of this congregation when the present handsome church edifice was erected and is now serving as treasurer of the congregation.

DITTMOR F. SPEES, treasurer of the city of Wapakoneta, proprietor of the Hotel barber shop on Auglaize street in that city, and one of the best known men in this county, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here, and has been a resident of this county all his life, with his home at Wapakoneta since the days of his childhood. The Spees family, of which there is a considerable connection hereabout, has been present in this part of Ohio since 1834, in which year Mathias Spees came up here from Ross county and settled on a tract of land which he had entered from the Government two years before (the year in which the Indian reservation lands had been opened to settlement) in section 18 of Union township, in what then was in Allen county, but which became a part of Auglaize county when the latter county was erected in 1848. That original Spees tract was in the neighborhood of where the village of Uniopolis later came to be laid out and the Spees family has been represented thereabout ever since. Dittmor F. Spees was born on a farm in that neighborhood, in Union township, May 9, 1877, and is a son of Sylvanus and Sarah (Perlett) Spees, both of whom were born in this county, the Perletts also having been among the pioneers of this region. Sylvanus Spees was reared on the old home farm in Union township and continued farming for some years after his marriage, or until about 1882, when he

moved to Wapakoneta and became engaged there as a stationary engineer in the plant of the Dickman Spoke Works, from which plant he presently went to the plant of the Standard Churn Company and with this concern remained connected for years, or until his removal to Ft. Recovery, in the neighboring county of Mercer, where he is similarly employed. To him and his wife were born eight children, those besides the subject of this sketch (the fourth in order of birth) being as follows: Maude, who married John Bauer, of Wapakoneta, and has three children, Wilbur, Walter and Roy, the first named of whom is married and has one child; John, also living at Wapakoneta, who married Maude Luckes and has two children, Bernard and Bernardine; Floyd, also of Wapakoneta, who married Emma Snyder, and has eight children, Erwin, Harry, Margaret, Roy, Helen, Grace, Ralph and Mary Ellen; William, also of Wapakoneta, who married Margaret Langhorst and has three children, Rowena, James and Ruth, the first named of whom was graduated from the high school with the class of 1922; Levi, now living at Lima, who married Lena Wormouth and has one child, a son, Franklin; Mary, who married Wade Ellis, living at Dayton, and has one child, Randolph; and Robert, of Wapakoneta, who married Jessie Bowersock and has one child, Robert, Jr. Dittmor F. Spees was about five years of age when his parents moved from Union township to Wapakoneta and his schooling was received in the schools of that city, his first teacher in the old Third Ward school building (now the Williamson school) having been Melissa Elliott. Upon leaving school he began to work in the old Buckeye cigar factory, but a year later became engaged at the local plant of the Standard Oil Company, where he remained two years, at the end of which time he entered upon an apprenticeship to the barber's trade in the Daniel Shimmel barber shop at Wapakoneta, where he remained a year, after which he began working as a "journeyman" barber and a year later bought the Shimmel shop. For five years Mr. Spees operated this establishment and then sold his place and took a chair at the Hotel barber shop on Auglaize street, at that time operated by John G. Hoegner, and was thus employed for twelve years, or until 1914, when he bought the shop and has since been operating it himself. Since taking over this barber shop Mr. Spees has made numerous improvements in the way of up-to-date equipment and has one of the leading tonsorial establishments in western Ohio. He carries three chairs in his shop and everything is in ship shape fashion. Mr. Spees is a Democrat and for years has taken an active interest in local political affairs. In 1921 he was elected city treasurer and on January 1, 1922, entered upon the duties of that office, his term of service extending to January 1, 1924. He is an active member of the

local Chamber of Commerce and of the Kiwanis Club and is a Royal Arch Mason and a member of the local council, Royal and Select Masters, as well as a member of the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Knights of Maccabees, while he and his wife are members of St. Paul's Evangelical church. On August 30, 1897, Dittmor F. Spees was united in marriage to Leonora Schemmel and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at 11 South Water street. Mrs. Spees also is a member of one of the old families of Auglaize county. She was born in Pusheta township and is a daughter of Rudolph and Elizabeth (Fisher) Schemmel. Both the Schemmel and the Fisher families have been represented in Pusheta township since pioneer days. Rudolph Schemmel grew up to farming in Pusheta township and was for some time engaged in that vocation in that township, but later became proprietor of a machine shop at Wapakoneta.

HERBERT GARMHAUSEN, president of the Lock 2 Grain Milling Company at Lock 2, formerly known as New Paris, along the canal just northeast of New Bremen, in German township, this county, and manager by direct descent, in the third generation, of the Garmhausen mercantile and milling interests at that point, was born at Lock 2, as was his father, and has lived there all his life, active in business since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Garmhausen was born on June 3, 1890, and is a son of Florenz and Cordelia (Hilgeman) Garmhausen, both of whom were born in that same township, members of pioneer families there, and the latter of whom is still living. The late Florenz Garmhausen was a son of John and Mary (Strausburg) Garmhausen, who were married here in 1854, and who were the parents of nine children, those besides Florenz having been Edward, Charles, Benjamin, Otto, Anna, Ida, Laura and Emma, the Garmhausen connection in the present generation thus being a considerable one. John Garmhausen, the pioneer, was a native of Germany, born at Osenburg on April 29, 1832, and was four years of age when, in 1836, his parents, Bernhardt and Anna (Heinfeldt) Garmhausen, came with their family to America and established their home at Cincinnati. It thus was that in Cincinnati John Garmhausen was reared and received his schooling. When eighteen years of age, in 1850, he joined a party of goldseekers and made the toilsome overland trip to California and was for two years engaged delving in the mines in the Sacramento country. Upon his return to Cincinnati, in 1852, he became attracted to word of the development that had taken place in the New Bremen community following the opening of canal traffic in this part of the state a few years before, and he came up here to look around. Attracted by the possibilities of a milling and mercantile site at Lock 2, just north-

FLORENZ GARMHAUSEN

HERBERT GARMHAUSEN

east of New Bremen, and to which at that time was given the name of New Paris, he put up a flour mill there and also opened a general store. Following his marriage a year or two later, he established his home at that place, and as his interests grew erected a large warehouse, to accommodate the accumulated stock stored for the canal traffic, and also put up a saw mill, thus becoming one of the most active and influential figures in the commercial and industrial activities of that community in his day, and the interests he thus created have been kept in the Garmhausen name to this day. In 1892 the Garmhausen store and the old family residence adjacent were destroyed by fire, but more commodious and more substantial structures at once took their place, even as when more than ten years later the mill and grain elevator were destroyed by fire these latter were replaced by better and larger buildings. Upon John Garmhausen's retirement from active affairs, his sons continued the management of the mill and mercantile interests, under the firm name of Garmhausen Bros., with Florenz Garmhausen, the elder son, as head of the firm. Florenz Garmhausen had grown up thoroughly familiar with the details of his father's business, in the development of which he had participated since the days of his boyhood, and when after the reconstruction of the mill and grain elevator following the fire which destroyed those buildings in 1904, the Lock 2 Grain and Milling Company was organized, he was elected president of that concern and continued actively in charge of affairs until his death in July, 1912. Florenz Garmhausen and his wife (Cordelia Hilgeman) were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Helene and Lorma, and a brother, Erwin Garmhausen. Reared at the old home at Lock 2, Herbert Garmhausen was graduated from the New Bremen high school in 1909, and since then has devoted his whole attention to the Garmhausen milling interests. In 1911 he was made the miller, a position he since has held, and following the death of his father in 1912 was elected to succeed the latter as president of the Lock 2 Grain and Milling Company, with general managerial supervision over the affairs of the Garmhausen interests there, this company also having in its control the mercantile interests that were established there by the pioneer John Garmhausen seventy years ago. This pioneer's little old mill, which was one of the most pretentious in this part of the state in that time, had a capacity of about fifty barrels a day. The present mill has a capacity of 125 barrels of flour a day, and the grain elevator has a storage capacity of 50,000 bushels of grain. Herbert Garmhausen married Fannie LaDow, daughter of T. J. LaDow, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at Lock 2. They are members of St. Peter's Evangelical church at New Bremen and are Republicans. Mr. Garmhausen is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen.

AUGUST F. ISERN, banker and dealer in real estate at New Bremen, clerk of the school board of that city and in other ways interested in the civic and commercial life of the community, is a native son of Auglaize county, and has resided here all his life. Mr. Isern was born on a farm in section 22 of Jackson township on April 8, 1860, and is a son of Fred and Marie Isern, both of whom were of European birth, but whose last days were spent in this county, where they had established their home after their marriage many years ago. Fred Isern was twenty-five years of age when he came to this country, in 1840, and came on out into this part of Ohio and located at New Bremen, where he became engaged as a carpenter. Not long afterward he decided to become a farmer and with that end in view bought a small tract of land south of New Bremen in section 22 of Jackson township and there established his home. As his affairs prospered he added to his holdings, until at the time of his death he was the owner of 200 acres of land and an excellent farm plant. Both the canal and the railroad ran through his land, which was situated about midway between the villages of New Bremen and Minster. To him and his wife were born ten children, eight of whom grew to maturity. Of these latter all are still living save Adolph, those besides the subject of this sketch being Dina, Ernest, Gustina, John, Doretta and Edward. August F. Isern grew up on the home farm and received his schooling in the New Bremen schools. As a young man he elected to remain on the farm and continued there until his marriage at the age of forty-five years, after which he made his home in New Bremen. In the meantime he had acquired possession of the home acres, 178 acres of which he still owns, and upon leaving the farm rented the place out to responsible tenants and has so continued to operate the place. It was in 1905 that Mr. Isern moved to New Bremen. Upon taking up his residence there he became connected with the First National Bank, at the same time giving his attention to the real estate and insurance business, and continued this connection with the bank for seven years. In 1922 he renewed his connection with the First National Bank as a member of the Board of Directors and was elected vice-president of the same. He also became a member of the Board of Directors of the First City Bank of New Bremen, and thus is actively identified with the interests of both of the banks in that city. Mr. Isern is a Democrat, and has long rendered service as a member of the local school board, of which he is now the clerk. He and his wife are members of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and he has served as a deacon in that congregation. August F. Isern has been twice married and by his first wife, who was Pauline Lehmkule, is the father of one child, a son, Homer C. Isern. Mr. Isern's present wife (Annabel Brown) was

for eleven years before her marriage a teacher in the New Bremen schools. Homer C. Isern, who married Beata Klanke, is a veteran of the World war. He served overseas with the 308th Engineers, was in four battles, including the Meuse-Argonne and Chateau Thierry, and was then in the Army of Occupation until his command was relieved from duty and ordered home.

WILLIAM NIENBERG, a veteran merchant at Minster, former clerk and assessor of Jackson township, for many years the president of the Minster Building and Loan Association and in other ways active in the commercial and civil life of that community, long recognized as one of the influential factors in the business relations of his home town, where all his long and useful life has been spent, was born here in the days before the erection of Auglaize county, and thus is a member of one of the real pioneer families of this region. Mr. Nienberg was born in the then pioneer village of Minster on January 17, 1846, that village then having been included within the confines of Mercer county, and is a son of Bernard H. and Marie (Sprehe) Nienberg, both natives of Germany, whose respective families were among the early settlers of the Minster community, originally known as Stallo Town. Bernard H. Nienberg was a well-grown boy when he came to this country with his parents, and when the family settled at Minster he did his part in the upbuilding of that community and was here when work on the construction of the canal was begun. For a time, as a young man, he was engaged in the labors of clearing and improving the old Koop farm, south of St. Marys, and after his marriage, about the time of the completion of the canal, became engaged in the mercantile business at Minster, the business interests of which place received so decisive an impetus following the inauguration of canal operation in the middle '40s, and he remained actively engaged in business there the remainder of his life. In 1860, in order better to accommodate his gradually increasing trade, he erected the building in which his son, William, is now carrying on his mercantile business, and thus for more than sixty years that building has been occupied as a Nienberg store, a record perhaps without parallel in this county. He also established a bakery, operated in connection with his general store, and was for many years a leader in the commercial life of the town, carrying on until his death in 1889, when his store was taken over by his son, William, who ever since has been located there. Of the six children, two sons and four daughters, born to Bernard H. Nienberg and his wife, the subject of this sketch alone survives, he having had a brother, Joseph, and four sisters, Mary, Anna, Agnes and Bernardine. Reared at Minster, William Nienberg received his schooling there and as a boy became an assistant to his father in the latter's grocery and bakery business there, re-

maining with him until after his marriage at the age of twenty-five years, when he started in business for himself, opening a dry goods and millinery store down near the canal. There he continued in business until after his father's death in 1889, when he sold his store in the vicinity of the canal and took over the store his father had been operating in the building erected in 1860, and has since been in business there, a dealer in dry goods, groceries and notions. Mr. Nienberg is a Democrat, with independent leanings, and has for years taken an interested part in local civic affairs, having served the public as township clerk and as township assessor. He is the only survivor of the original organizers of the Minster Building and Loan Association, was for years treasurer of that association, and for the past thirty years has served as president of the same. He and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church, and he for years was president of the St. Boniface Society, and is now the secretary of the St. Augustine Society, a position he has occupied for years. It was in 1871 that William Nienberg was united in marriage to Elizabeth Voelker, who also is a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, and to this union were born seven children, five of whom died in infancy or youth, the survivors being the two daughters, Mary and Amelia, the latter of whom married Robert Schmeider and has five children, William, Margaret, Paul, Lawrence and Carl. William Nienberg is one of the real veteran business men of Minster and the history of his life is really a part of the history of the commercial life of that town.

ROBERT B. ANDERSON, a veteran of the World war, with a major commission—a present major in the Officers' Reserve Corps; former recorder of Auglaize county, secretary of the Auglaize County Law Library and Bar Association, and for years recognized as one of the leading lawyers of this county, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Wapakoneta since the days of his childhood. Mr. Anderson was born at Troy, Ohio, July 22, 1868, and is a son of P. B. Anderson, who afterward became a resident of Wapakoneta and was for years thereafter a prominent figure in the industrial life of that city, a manufacturer of carriages, having come here in 1880 from Sidney, in which latter city he was for some time engaged in the manufacturing business after leaving Troy. It thus was in Sidney that Robert B. Anderson received his first schooling. He was twelve years of age when his parents moved to Wapakoneta. Upon completing the course in the schools of the latter city he began reading law in the law office of Layton & Stueve (F. C. Layton and C. A. Stueve), and after a course of three years and a half under that preceptorship was admitted to the bar, straightway thereafter entering upon the practice of his profession at Wapakoneta. It was on October 5, 1889, that Mr. Anderson opened his

JAMES P. ANDERSON LIEUT. WALTER W. ANDERSON
ROBERT T. ANDERSON MAJOR ROBERT B. ANDERSON

law office at Wapakoneta, and he ever since has been engaged in practice there. He started in practice alone, but has from time to time been associated in practice with other well-known local lawyers, his present association being a partnership with Otto Boesel, under the firm name of Anderson & Boesel. Until his removal to Lima, J. H. Goeke, former representative in Congress from this district, was a member of this firm. Mr. Anderson is a Democrat and has done his part in rendering public service. In 1899 he was elected to the office of recorder of Auglaize county and by re-election served for six years (1900-1906) in that office. For years he has been regarded by his confreres as one of the "mainstays" of the local bar association, the value of his services as secretary and librarian of the Auglaize County Law Library and Bar Association being appreciated by all. This association maintains an excellent law library just off the court room in the court house, and Mr. Anderson's close personal interest in that behalf has undoubtedly been very effective. From the days of his boyhood Mr. Anderson has been a close student of the law and his private law library is regarded as one of the best "working" libraries hereabout. When the United States took a hand in the World war in 1917, not only did Mr. Anderson give the best that was in him to further the cause of this nation's arms, but his three sons gave also of their best, the father serving as a major in the judge advocate general's department, one of the sons serving in the engineer corps, another in the field artillery, and another in the marine corps. On September 13, 1918, Robert B. Anderson was commissioned major in the judge advocate general's department and was assigned as camp judge advocate at Camp Beauregard (Louisiana), where he served in that capacity until that camp was closed at the end of the war, after which he was detailed for service in the office of the judge advocate general at Washington, D. C., and there rendered further service until honorably discharged on November 29, 1919, the highest ranking officer commissioned from Auglaize county. In March, 1920, Major Anderson was appointed and commissioned by the President a major in the Officers' Reserve Corps and is thus now serving in that capacity. Major Anderson's eldest son, James P. Anderson, also is a veteran of the World war, with an overseas record. His service was rendered in the Engineers Railway Corps, and with that command he spent two years in France. The Major's second son, Walter W. Anderson, was commissioned a second lieutenant and his service was rendered in the field artillery, and the third son, Robert T. Anderson, who served in the marine corps, was overseas for a period of one year. It was on May 23, 1894, that Robert B. Anderson was united in marriage to Jennie Wilson, daughter of James and Sara (Trimble) Wilson, of Wapakoneta, and to that union were born the three sons here referred to.

Mrs. Jennie Anderson died on October 27, 1903, and Mr. Anderson later married Carolyn Prueter, daughter of Frank and Anna G. (Holl) Prueter. Mr. Anderson is a member of the board of directors and attorney for the Wapakoneta Building and Savings Company. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and is affiliated with the local post of the American Legion, is a Scottish Rite (32°) Mason, is past chancellor commander of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Wapakoneta, past exalted ruler of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and likewise a member of the local lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose, the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the local tent of the Knights of the Maccabees. As noted above, he is a Democrat and has long been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in this county and district, with an acquaintance throughout the state that gives value to his counsels in the campaigns of that party.

CHARLES ENGEL, a retired liquor dealer and restaurateur and owner of the Engel block on Spring street at St. Marys, one of the best known citizens of that town, is a native "Buckeye" and has been a resident of this state all his life, a resident of St. Marys for nearly half a century. Mr. Engel was born at Dayton, Ohio, March 19, 1853, and is a son of Frank and Christina (Hollman) Engel, both of whom spent their last days at Dayton. The late Frank Engel was of European birth, born in the kingdom of Prussia, and was twenty-eight years of age when he came to this country, locating in New Jersey for some time after his arrival here. In 1847 he came to Ohio and established himself in the drayage and transfer business at Dayton, where he established his home and where he continued engaged in the transfer business until his retirement at the age of sixty-five years. He died there in 1902. To him and his wife were born three children, of whom the subject of this sketch now alone survives, Mr. Engel having had two sisters, Mary and Emma. Reared at Dayton, Charles Engel received his schooling in that city and was early trained to the vocation of carpenter, a vocation he followed at Dayton until he was about twenty-two years of age, when (in 1875) he began working as a carpenter at St. Marys, where he ever since has made his home, and where he was married a couple of years after locating there. In 1876, the year following his arrival at St. Marys, Mr. Engel opened a retail liquor establishment and restaurant at St. Marys and was engaged in that business for thirty years, or until his retirement in April, 1905. Mr. Engel's business proved successful and he has acquired some valuable property interests in the town, including the Engel block at 113 West Spring street, in which he formerly carried on his business and in the upper rooms of which he and his wife still

reside, very comfortably situated. He also formerly was a stockholder in the company which erected and maintained the opera house there, adjacent to the Engel block. Mr. and Mrs. Engel are members of the St. Paul's Reformed church and are Democrats. It was on May 24, 1877, about two years after his arrival at St. Marys, that Charles Engle was united in marriage to Bertha Puetz, of St. Marys, and to that union one child was born, a son, Frank Engel, whose schooling was completed by a course of two years at Dayton and who is now living at St. Marys, connected with the operations of the paper mill there. Frank Engel married Elsie Fickle and has six children, Catherine Bertha, Amelia, Carl, William, Gertrude and Robert Lee. Mrs. Bertha Engel was born in Germany and was but a child when she came to this country with her parents, William P. and Lizetta (Mackenbach) Puetz, in 1854, the family coming on out into Ohio and settling at St. Marys, which at that time was coming to be recognized as one of the best canal towns in the state. William Puetz was a carpenter by trade and for some time after his arrival at St. Marys followed that vocation, presently becoming a millwright and later opening at St. Marys a furniture and undertaking establishment and in this latter business continued engaged the remainder of his life, his death occurring in December, 1872. To him and his wife were born eleven children, of whom but three now survive, Mrs. Engel having a sister, Amelia, and a brother, John W. Puetz.

ERNEST NAGEL, brick and tile manufacturer and coal dealer at Minster, was born on a farm just northwest of Minster, in Jackson township, this county, September 1, 1897, and is a son of Bernard and Anna (Schulte) Nagel, the latter of whom was born in that same township, a member of one of the pioneer families in that part of the county. The late Bernard Nagel was born in Germany and was about five years of age when he came with his parents to this country, the family presently becoming located on a farm just northwest of Minster in this county. There Bernard Nagel grew to manhood and after his marriage established his home in that same neighborhood and there continued farming the remainder of his life, in time becoming the owner of 485 acres of land and thus accounted one of the substantial landowners of the county. He was twice married and by his first wife (Clara Hulinda) was the father of six children, five of whom are still living, William, John, Elizabeth, Anna and Rosa. By his union with Anna Schulte he was the father of five children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Benjamin, Charles, Clarence and Marie. Reared on the home farm in the vicinity of Minster, Ernest Nagel received his schooling in the Minster schools and from the days of his boyhood was helpful in the affairs of the home farm. He remained with his parents until his

marriage, when he established his home at Minster and not long thereafter bought from Benjamin Steinemann the brick and tile factory and ice ponds, which had for years been under the Steinemann direction, and has ever since been engaged in operating that plant, to which since taking possession he has added a sorghum mill and become a dealer in coal, and is doing well in his business. The Nagel brick plant has a capacity of between 10,000 and 12,000 bricks a day and the tile factory has about the same capacity, while the ice house is of sufficient dimension to store 1,000 tons of ice, the ice formed from the ponds in the old clay pits being of a high grade. Mr. Nagel is energetic and progressive in the manner in which he is developing his industries and is accounted one of the leading young business men of the Minster community. He is a member of the Commercial Club and the Citizens Fire Company, and is affiliated with the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the St. Boniface Benevolent Society, while he and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church. Mr. Nagel married Mary Westerheide, daughter of Henry Westerheide, and has one child, a daughter, Rita Marie. The Nagels have a pleasant home at Minster. In his political views Mr. Nagel prefers to be classed as an "independent."

HERMAN H. KUHLMAN, veteran merchant and banker of New Knoxville, president of the board of education of that village, for thirty years treasurer of Washington township and in other ways interested in the general civil and commercial life of that community, one of the best known business men in Auglaize county, is a European by birth, but has been a resident of this country and of Auglaize county since he was fifteen years of age, a period of almost fifty years, and has done well his part in the development of the community in which he has made his home ever since he came here as a lad in the days that still were regarded as pioneer days in this county. Mr. Kuhlman was born on December 1, 1857, in the town of Vehrte, in the principality of Osnabruck, occupying the western part of the Prussian province of Hanover and embracing also the duchy of Arensberg-Meppen, ceded to Hanover in 1803, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Ruesse) Kuhlman, the latter of whom died there in 1867. He was fifteen years of age when in 1873 he came to this country with his father, William Kuhlman, the family proceeding immediately on out into Ohio and locating at New Knoxville, in this county, whither Herman's two elder brothers, George and Henry Kuhlman, had preceded them and effected a location some time before. William Kuhlman was a bricklayer by trade and an artisan in woodworking handicraftmanship, a skilled carver of wooden shoes, which latter vocation he followed during the winters, when bricklaying was impracticable. Upon establishing his home

HERMAN H. KUHLMAN

at New Knoxville, he continued these vocations, for at that time there still was a considerable demand thereabout for wooden shoes, and he spent the remainder of his life there, his death occurring in 1893. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living save two sons, William Jr. and Christian, and one daughter, Louise, the subject of this sketch now having one sister, Elizabeth, and two brothers, George and Henry Kuhlman. As all these children grew to maturity and had families of their own, the Kuhlman connection in the present generation is a considerable one. As noted above, Herman H. Kuhlman was not yet sixteen years of age when he came to Auglaize county in 1873. He had received excellent schooling in his native land, and after coming here lost little time in settling down into the manners and customs of the land in which his folks had elected to make their home and which he was quite well content to adopt. His first labor upon coming here was as a farm hand, working on a farm in the New Knoxville neighborhood for $60 a year. For five years he continued working in the fields and woods, interspersing this employment during the winters as a clerk in one of the village stores, and then, when twenty-one years of age, was married. After his marriage Mr. Kuhlman took his place in the general store of his mother-in-law, Mrs. C. S. Luterbein, at New Knoxville, and not long afterward was made a partner in that enterprise. Upon Mrs. Luterbein's death, in 1893, he took over the interest of his deceased partner in the store and has since continued to operate the same as sole proprietor. In 1881, about three years after Mr. Kuhlman became identified with the operation of this store, Mrs. Luterbein built what is the original section of the building now occupied as the Kuhlman store, and in 1891 an addition was built, constituting the present store building, which covers floor space 40 by 70 feet. The Kuhlman store is a general store, handling pretty much everything in the way of merchandise required in that trade area, including dry goods, notions, house furnishings, boots and shoes and the like, and has a reputation founded upon many years of successful operation. In 1910 Mr. Kuhlman, in association with his eldest son, Henry H. W. Kuhlman, established the Peoples Savings Bank of New Knoxville, with the son as cashier of the bank, and the two have since been carrying on a successful banking business there. This is a private bank, the two Kuhlmans being sole owners, and now shows capital, surplus and undivided profits in excess of $24,000, with deposits aggregating more than $325,000. In the spring of 1922 the present well-equipped and modern two-story brick building occupied by this bank was erected, and the patrons of this bank now have as convenient banking accommodations as those of any bank in the county. The senior Kuhlman, head of this bank, is also a member of the Home Banking Company of St.

Marys. Mr. Kuhlman is an ardent Republican, for years one of the leaders of that party in this part of the county, and since 1892 has been serving the people of Washington township as township treasurer, a period of continuous public service that likely enough is not exceeded by that of any other public official in the county. He also is president of the local board of education at New Knoxville, and in other ways has ever done his part in local civic activities. He and his family are members of the German Reformed church at New Knoxville, and for thirty-five years he has been a teacher in the Sunday school of that church, and for thirty years has been treasurer of the congregation, a record of continuous church service that also likely enough is not exceeded in the county. Herman H. Kuhlman has been twice married. In February, 1879, he was united in marriage to Emma Luterbein, a daughter of Henry Luterbein and wife, and to this union were born nine children, Henry, Alvina, Ida, Meta, Reinhart, Selma, Clara, Arminta and Leroy. The mother of these children died in 1906, and in June, 1909, Mr. Kuhlman married Emma Fennemann, daughter of William H. Fennemann, and to this latter union three children have been born, Mildred, Laurence and Norman. Henry H. W. Kuhlman, the eldest of Mr. Kuhlman's sons and cashier of the Peoples Savings Bank of New Knoxville, was born on August 21, 1881, and his schooling was completed in the St. Marys high school and at Ohio Northern University at Ada. Like his father, he takes a proper interest in local civic affairs, is now serving as mayor of New Knoxville, and has rendered public service as clerk of the village. On June 6, 1911, he was united in marriage to Olga Finke, of New Bremen, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Robert. Mr. Kuhlman's eldest daughter, Alvina, married Herman Holl and has two children, Ruth and Marie. Ida Kuhlman married W. H. Wellman. Selma Kuhlman married Julius Eversman, and Reinhart Kuhlman, who is now a teacher in the St. Marys high school, married Dorothy Kuhlman and has one child, a daughter, Melba Louise. Prof. Reinhart Kuhlman is a veteran of the World war with an overseas record and a record of twenty-one months in the army during the time of this country's participation in the great war.

LOUIS M. YAHL, a member of the common council of the city of St. Marys and one of the best known merchants of that city, proprietor of a grocery store on East Spring street, where he has been located in business for the past quarter of a century, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Yahl was born at Marion, Ohio, in 1869, and is a son of Philip and Margaret (Diebold) Yahl, both of European birth, the latter of whom was born in the grand duchy of Baden and was but thirteen years of

age when she came to this country with her parents, the family locating at Marion, this state. Philip Yahl, an honored veteran of the Civil war, was an Alsatian, born in the then French province of Alsace, and was there reared. He served his term in the French army and while thus engaged served as a soldier in the Crimean war in the middle '50s. Upon the completion of his military service he came to America and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating at Marion, where he was living when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted his services in behalf of the Union cause and went to the front as a member of the 4th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served for three years, nine months and twenty-one days, or until his discharge at the close of the war. During this period of service Mr. Yahl was successively under the command of Generals Hooker, Grant and McClellan and saw much active service, participating in some of the most important engagements of the war, his service culminating in his participation in the Grand Review at Washington following Appomattox. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Yahl returned to Marion and not long afterward was there married to Margaret Diebold. He was working in a saw mill there at that time, but in the early '70s came with his family to Auglaize county and bought a farm of eighty acres in Salem township, north of St. Marys, where he established his home. A few years later, however, he sold that place and bought an "eighty" in Noble township. On this latter place he lived until his retirement from the farm in 1895, when he and his wife moved to St. Marys, where their last days were spent, his death occurring in 1904 and hers in 1913. They were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Jennie, who is his assistant in the grocery store, and two brothers, Charles and Frank Yahl. Philip Yahl was an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at St. Marys and he and his wife were members of the Lutheran church, in which faith their children were reared. Louis M. Yahl was but a lad when he came to Auglaize county with his parents from Marion. He received his elementary schooling in the schools of Noble township and then took a course in the normal school at Middle Point, after which for five years he was engaged in teaching school during the winters, continuing his work on the farm during the summers. He then became engaged in the grocery business at St. Marys, and has ever since been thus engaged, twenty-five years in the same location on East Spring street, where he has an admirably equipped and well stocked store. Mr. Yahl is a Democrat, as was his father, and has ever taken an interested part in local civic affairs, at present serving as a member of the city common council from his ward. He is a member of the local lodge of

the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the American Insurance Union and he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. In 1899, not long after taking up his commercial activities at St. Marys, Louis M. Yahl was united in marriage to Lisa Zeib, of that city, daughter of Philip and Anna Zeib, who had moved from New Bremen to St. Marys, and to this union six children have been born, Vernon, Raymond, Carl, Frederick, Walter and Anna Margaret, all of whom are at home. The Yahls have a pleasant home at 316 Columbia street.

FRANK H. STREINE, vice president and general manager of the Streine Manufacturing Company of New Bremen and president of the New Bremen Tool and Manufacturers' Association, is an European by birth but has been a resident of this country since he was nine years of age and of this county since 1918. Mr. Streine was born in Germany in 1878 and in 1887 came to this country with his parents, the family locating at Newport, Ky., where he received his schooling and grew to manhood. He early turned his attention to practical mechanics and after serving an active apprenticeship in a machine shop entered the Ohio Mechanics Institute and there became qualified as a mechanical engineer. After his marriage he located at Ft. Thomas, Ky., but not long afterward was placed in technical charge of the waterworks plant at Newport and was thus engaged for two years (1912-14), at the end of which time he was placed in charge of the plant of the Bricket Machine and Manufacturing Company of Cincinnati, where he remained as general manager of the concern until 1918, when he moved to New Bremen and organized the Streine Manufacturing Company, of which he is the vice president and general manager, and has since made his home there. The Streine Manufacturing Company manufactures shearing machinery and also machinery for the manufacture of corrugated sheet metal roofing and siding, the only concern of this sort in the United States and Canada, all the machinery used in the corrugating process on this continent thus being turned out at New Bremen, the products of the Streine concern thus doing much to add to the name and the fame of that energetic little city over the country. The plant of the Streine company covers 17,000 square feet of floor space and is one of the best equipped and most up-to-date heavy machine shops in northwestern Ohio. Since taking up his residence in New Bremen Mr. Streine has taken an active interest in the general industrial situation there and has done much to promote the business interests of the town. He is president of the New Bremen Tool and Manufacturers Association and is alert to every opportunity to advance the interests of that body. He is affiliated with the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and with the

Travelers Protective Association, is a Freemason and in his political views maintains an "independent" attitude, holding himself free to support the best men at the polls irrespective of party ties. While living at Newport Mr. Streine was united in marriage to Emma C. Berndt, who died leaving four children, Dorothy, Frank, Carol and Elizabeth. Not long after his arrival at New Bremen he married Caroline Berndt. The Streines have a pleasant home at New Bremen and take a proper interest in the general social activities of the community.

ARNOLD YAGGI, a member of the Wapakoneta city council and foreman of the packing department of the extensive plant of the Deisel-Wemmer Company (cigars) at Wapakoneta, is a European by birth, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-two years of age. Mr. Yaggi was born at Thun, a picturesque and ancient town of the Republic of Switzerland, in the canton of Berne, seventeen miles southeast of the city of that name (the capital of the country), September 5, 1877, and is a son of Jacob and Mary Anna (Yenny) Yaggi, both of whom also were born in Switzerland. The town of Thun in which Mr. Yaggi was reared, stands on the river Aar, one mile from the Lake of Thun, out of which the river rushes past the town in a stream of crystal clearness. The old castle of the twelfth century, with its corner towers, and the venerable church are the chief buildings. Thun is the starting place for those who visit the Bernese Overland, and is consequently visited by crowds every season, many Americans thus having delightful memories of the picturesque old town. It was in this place that Mr. Yaggi received his schooling and grew to manhood. He finished his three years in the army, a compulsory service on all Swiss young men, and then came to America, arriving at the port of New York on May 1, 1900. His destination was Lima, Ohio, where a married sister was living, and he lost little time in making his way out here. He had been trained to the trade of baker in his home town and upon his arrival at Lima quickly found employment in that vocation, in the Jacob Rentz bakery. Two years later he found it to his advantage to revise his plan of employment and he entered the employ of the Deisel-Wemmer Company, cigar manufacturers, becoming employed in the packing department of that company's central plant at Lima, where he remained until the summer of 1905, when he made a trip back to his old home in Switzerland, sailing in June and returning in September. Upon his return to Lima he resumed his place in the cigar factory and remained there until March 8, 1907, when he was transferred to the company's plant at Wapakoneta and there promoted to the position of foreman of the packing department, a position which he since has occupied,

having about twenty persons under his direction, has thus for years been one of the influential factors in the industrial life of the town. Mr. Yaggi is a Democrat and has long taken an interested part in local political affairs, at present representing his ward in the city council, his term of service in that office running from January 1, 1922, to January 1, 1924. He is a member of the local lodges of the Loyal Order of Moose and of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of St. Mark's Lutheran church, with the council of which congregation he has been connected for the past seven years or more. On February 28, 1911, Arnold Yaggi was united in marriage to Emma Dillman, who was born in this county, daughter of Chris K. and Barbara (Fisher) Dillman. Mr. and Mrs. Yaggi have a very pleasant home at 615 Bellefontaine street.

HERMAN F. BIENZ, cashier of the First National Bank of New Bremen, former clerk of German township and former member of the town council, has been a resident of New Bremen for a little more than twenty years and has been connected with the bank nearly all of that time, starting in as a clerk in this institution when it was known as the old Boesel Bank in the summer of 1903. Mr. Bienz was born at Cincinnati on September 9, 1884, and is a son of John F. and Mary Virginia (Bleichner) Bienz, the latter of whom was born in Newport, Ky., and is now living at New Bremen. The late John F. Bienz was born in Preble county, this state, and when a young man went to Cincinnati and became engaged in the dry goods and men's furnishings business. He married while there and continued in business in that city until about 1897, when he came up into this part of the state and located at Rockford, in the neighboring county of Mercer, where he became engaged in the grocery business. His last days were spent in Los Angeles, California. He and his wife had five children, four of whom are now living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Helen, Marie and Alma. Herman F. Bienz, the third of these children in order of birth, was about thirteen years of age when he moved with his parents from Cincinnati to Rockford and his schooling was completed in the schools of this village. When about eighteen years of age he took employment in the office of the New Bremen broom factory and remained there until August 1, 1903, when he transferred his services to the old Boesel Bank at New Bremen, entering the bank as a clerk. Two years later, in 1905, when the bank was nationalized under the name of the First National Bank of New Bremen, he was made assistant cashier of the bank and he continued to serve in that capacity until his election to the position of cashier of the bank in 1920. Mr. Bienz is a Democrat and has served the public in various

capacities, two terms as clerk of German township and three terms as a member of the town council. He and his wife are members of the Zion Reformed church. It was on February 12, 1913, that Herman F. Bienz was united in marriage to Jennie Wehmeyer, daughter of John and Catherine Wehmeyer, and to this union two sons have been born, J. Stanley and Robert H. Mr. Bienz has long taken an active and interested part in the affairs of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen and is a past chancellor commander of the lodge.

H. J. HAGEDORN, a well known merchant at Minster, dealer in dry goods, groceries and notions and one of the leaders of the Commercial Club at that place, was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Mercer on October 7, 1879, and is a son of John and Catherine (Wolste) Hagedorn, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that part of the state. The late John Hagedorn was reared as a farmer and for some years after his marriage was engaged in farming in Mercer county. About 1883 he left the farm and moved into the village of Chickasaw, where he became engaged as a hotel and grain man, and was thus engaged the remainder of his life, his death occurring about ten years ago. He and his wife were the parents of thirteen children, ten of whom are still living, but of these H. J. Hagedorn is the only one residing in Auglaize county. H. J. Hagedorn was about four years of age when his parents moved from the farm to Chickasaw and he grew to manhood in that village, receiving his schooling in the schools of that place. As a young man he became employed as a clerk in a grocery store at Chickasaw and was thus engaged for about three years, at the end of which time he began working in the saw mill and stave factory there and was thus employed for five years, or until in 1902, when he moved to Minster and became employed in the Herkenhoff store, later transferring his service to the J. B. Meyer store, and was thus engaged for eight years, at the end of which time, in 1910, he became established in business on his own account, opening a grocery store at Minster. For about a year Mr. Hagedorn carried only a stock of groceries and then seeing that the opportunity was ripe for an extension of his business he secured larger quarters and put in a general stock of dry goods and notions, in addition to his grocery department, and has since had a very well equipped and amply stocked store and has come to be regarded as one of the leading merchants of the town. Mr. Hagedorn's store covers a floor space 27 by 65 feet, and occupies two floors, the upper story of his place of business being occupied as a storage room for surplus stock. He is an active member of the Commercial Club of Minster and has served as secretary of the same. In his fraternal

affiliations he is connected with the Knights of Columbus and with the Fraternal Order of Eagles and he and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church. H. J. Hagedorn married Anna Kuhlman, daughter of Mathias Kuhlman, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at Minster.

DR. C. E. MECKSTROTH, a practicing physician at New Knoxville and one of the best known of the younger physicians of Auglaize county, was born just southeast of New Knoxville, in Washington township, January 30, 1885, and is a son of Herman H. and Mary (Bierbaum) Meckstroth, both of whom were born in that same township, members of pioneer families in that part of the county. The late Herman H. Meckstroth, who far many years was well known throughout this region as a manufacturer of tile, was a son of William Meckstroth, a native of Germany, who had come up into this part of Ohio following his arrival in this country and in 1835 had entered from the Government title to a tract of land in section 30 of what in the next year came to be organized as Washington township, Allen county, and which in 1848 came to be a part of the new county of Auglaize. The town of New Knoxville, less than a mile north of his place of settlement, was not laid out until the next year (1836), four years after the Indians had left this region, and William Meckstroth thus became one of the real pioneers of the New Knoxville neighborhood, a helpful and influential factor in the creation there of an orderly and forward looking community, so that his memory ever will be kept green there so long as local records are preserved. Herman H. Meckstroth was born on that pioneer farm and there grew to manhood. In 1868 he established a tile mill on that place just southeast of New Knoxville and continued to operate that plant for thirty-one years, or until 1899, when he sold the plant and moved onto a farm he had bought in the Botkins neighborhood, over the line in Shelby county, where he was engaged in farming until his retirement in 1919 and removal to New Knoxville, where his last days were spent, his death occurring in July, 1922. His wife had preceded him to the grave nearly fifteen years, her death having occurred in 1907. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, the Rev. William L. Meckstroth and Dr. Henry L. Meckstroth. The early schooling of Dr. C. E. Meckstroth was received in the New Knoxville schools. He was fourteen years of age when the family moved over into Shelby county, and after further schooling in the Shelby county schools he secured a license to teach school and was for five years thereafter engaged during the winters in teaching in the Shelby county schools. During this time he married. In the meantime also he had been devoting his attention to preparatory studies in medicine, and as an essential to entrance into college

DR. C. E. MECKSTROTH AND FAMILY

entered the high school at Wapakoneta and in two years completed the four-year course there and was graduated in 1910. Thus equipped by preparatory study, he then entered Starling Ohio Medical College at Columbus (now the medical department of the Ohio State University), and in 1914 was graduated from that institution. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Meckstroth opened an office for the practice of his profession at Botkins and was there engaged in practice for ten months, at the end of which time he moved to New Knoxville, where he established his home and has ever since been engaged in practice. The Doctor is a member of the Ohio State Medical Society and of the Auglaize County Medical Society, and also is a fellow of the American Medical Association, in the deliberations of which several bodies he has long taken an earnest interest. Dr. C. E. Meckstroth married Martha Howe, daughter of William and Sophia (Stolte) Howe, of Shelby county, and to this union four children have been born, three sons and a daughter, Paul, Ruth, Leslie and Norman. Doctor and Mrs. Meckstroth are members of the First Reformed church at New Knoxville. They have a pleasant home at New Knoxville and take an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of the community.

WILLIAM B. McMURRAY, founder of the McMurray greenhouses at Wapakoneta and for years one of the leading floriculturists in this part of Ohio, who died at his home in Wapakoneta in the spring of 1912, and whose widow is still carrying on the well established business developed there by him, left a good memory at his passing and it is but fitting that there should be included here in the definite history of the county in which he spent his useful life some modest tribute to that memory. Mr. McMurray was born at Wapakoneta on April 10, 1858, and was a son of Robert and Mary (Tabler) McMurray, both of whom were members of pioneer families here. He was reared at Wapakoneta, receiving his schooling in the schools of that place, and as a young man became employed at the wheel works and presently was made a lumber grader there, a position he occupied for about ten years after his marriage, or until about 1888, when he established his green house at Wapakoneta and started the business which soon was to gain him recognition as a floriculturist of no mean skill and discrimination. Starting with one small green house, Mr. McMurray gradually developed the business, as the fame of his flowers spread throughout this section, until the McMurray greenhouses came to be recognized as among the best in northwestern Ohio. The present plant of this commercial conservatory consists of three well equipped and carefully tended green houses, heated by a hot-water system. Mr. McMurray died on May 19, 1912, and since then his widow has been carrying on

the business very successfully. It was in June, 1879, that William B. McMurray was united in marriage to Rachel Shawber, who also was born in Wapakoneta, daughter of Joshua and Rebecca (Shawber) Shawber, both also natives of Ohio, the former born in Logan county and the latter in Crawford county, and to this union three children were born, namely: Robert, who is now living at Bellefontaine, Ohio; Mrs. Mildred Swink, of Cleveland, Ohio, and May, deceased. Mrs. McMurray is one of seven children born to her parents. Of these, three are still living, Mrs. McMurray having a sister, Mrs. Martha Zerfy, of Cincinnati, and a brother, Joshua Shawber, of Colorado.

PETER BOEHMER, manager of the extensive plant of the Rabe Lumber Company at Minster and one of the well known and active figures in local industrial circles there, was born at Cassella, in the neighboring county of Mercer, on March 21, 1883, and is a son of Adam and Mary (Schmeltz) Boehmer, the latter of whom also was born in Mercer county, a member of one of the pioneer families in that part of the state. Adam Boehmer, now a resident of Celina, was born in Germany and was but nine years of age when his parents came with their family to American and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating in Mercer county. There he grew to manhood and after his marriage established his home on a farm in that county and became the owner of a fine farm of 110 acres. On this place he continued to make his home until his retirement in 1910 and removal to Celina, where he is now living. To him and his wife were born six children, all of whom are living save Julius Boehmer, who died in the spring of 1921 from the effects of a gas attack he suffered while serving as a soldier in the American Expeditionary Force in France during the World war. The other children of this family (besides the subject of this sketch) are Edward, Elizabeth, Monica and Henry. Reared on the home farm in Mercer county, Peter Boehmer received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained at home on the farm until 1904, when he became employed in the plant of the New Idea Spreader Company at Maria Stein, in his home county, where he remained for seven years, during three years of which time he was foreman of the plant. At the end of that time he moved to Minster and became employed there in the lumber plant of the Moeller Lumber Company and was thus engaged there when in 1915 this concern was bought by the Rabe Lumber Company, which has since been operating the plant. When this change of management was effected Mr. Boehmer was made manager of the lumber yard and has since occupied that position, one of the best known lumber men in the county. Since taking up his residence at Minster Mr. Boehmer has given a good citizen's

attention to local civic affairs and has served the public as a member of the town council. In his political views he prefers to be classed as an "independent." He is an active member of the Minster Commercial Club, is affiliated with the St. Boniface Benevolent Society and with the St. Augustine Society and he and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church. Mr. Boehmer married Mary Harting, daughter of Reinhart Harting, and he and his wife have one child, a daughter, Cleopha. The Boehmers have a very pleasant home at Minster.

IRA SIBERT, proprietor of a modern shoe repair shop at Wapakoneta and formerly and for years an attache of the wheel works in that city, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Sibert was born on a farm in Duchouquet township on August 6, 1873, and is a son of Calvin and Catherine (Bitler) Sibert, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here. Calvin Sibert grew up on a farm in that township and in turn became a farmer and landowner there, proprietor of a well improved farm of 357 acres, on which he made his home until his retirement in 1915 and removal to Uniopolis, where he and his wife are now living. They have three children, the subject of this sketch having a twin sister, Ida, wife of Jerome Orr, and a brother, Samuel H. Sibert, also a resident of Wapakoneta. Reared on the home farm in Duchouquet township, Ira Sibert received his schooling in the district schools and remained at home, a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing the farm, until after his marriage at the age of twenty-two years, when he began farming on his own account. Two years later he moved to Uniopolis and not long afterward moved from that place to Wapakoneta, where he became employed in the wheel works and was thus engaged for twelve years, or until the fall of 1909, when he opened a shoe repair shop at Wapakoneta. From the beginning of this enterprise Mr. Sibert found it successful and in 1911 he enlarged and extended the capacity of his place by putting in a complete equipment of up-to-date shoe repair machinery. Since then he has doubled that equipment and is thus prepared to take care of all local needs along that line. Besides the several employes he has in the place he has a valued assistant in the person of his son, Richard E. Sibert, a veteran of the World war, who is giving his personal attention to the growing business his father has developed. It was on April 26, 1896, that Ira Sibert was united in marriage to Amelia A. Kiefer, who also was born in this county, a daughter of Jacob and Agnes (Strohm) Kiefer, the latter of whom was born in Germany and was but a child when she came to this country with her parents, the family locating in this county. Jacob Kiefer was born in Auglaize

county, a member of one of the old families here. Mr. and Mrs. Sibert have one child, the son, Richard E., above referred to. Mr. Sibert is a Republican and he and his wife attend the German Lutheran church. He is an active lodge man and is affiliated with the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics and the Knights of the Maccabees.

HENRY FINKE, an honored veteran of the Civil war, formerly and for years secretary of the Kuenzel Milling Company at New Bremen and long one of the most influential figures in the general commercial and industrial life of that community, one of the best known men in Auglaize county, who died at his home in New Bremen in 1911, left a good memory at his passing and it is fitting that there should be presented here some modest tribute to that memory. Mr. Finke was born at New Bremen on January 14, 1843, and was a son of William and Elizabeth (Kuenzel) Finke, influential pioneers of that community. William Finke was born in Germany and early was trained as a flour miller. Following his location at New Bremen he became engaged there in the milling business, his pioneer flour mill proving a great convenience to the settlers. He later merged this flour mill with the operations of the woolen mill, the concern then coming to be operated under the firm name of Finke, Backhaus & Kuenzel, which in the process of time became the present Kuenzel Milling Company, all of which is set out elsewhere, and in the milling business William Finke continued until his death. He and his wife were the parents of two children, the subject of this memorial sketch having had a sister, Louise. Reared at New Bremen, Henry Finke supplemented the schooling received in the schools of that village by a course in the St. Marys high school. Though but eighteen years of age when the Civil war broke out, Mr. Finke at once enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and became a member of Company C of the 37th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, which took the field in the summer of 1861. In the week following his enlistment Mr. Finke was elected first lieutenant of Company C and with that gallant command served until the war was over, being mustered out in August, 1865. His term of service in the army thus covered a period of four years and during that time he was a participant in some of the most important engagements and battles of the war, for it is well recalled that the gallant 37th Ohio saw some pretty strenuous action. Upon the completion of his military service Henry Finke returned to New Bremen and at once entered upon an active participation in his father's growing milling activities. It was thus that he was an active figure in the merger of the milling

interests at New Bremen and took part in the erection of the woolen mills, with which concern he remained connected until his death. Under the reorganization of the milling interests under the name of the Kuenzel Milling Company he was elected secretary of the company and was thus serving at the time of his death on January 15, 1911, he then being one day past sixty-eight years of age. Mr. Finke was a Republican, long regarded as one of the leaders of that party in Auglaize county, and was an active member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at New Bremen. He was for years one of the most active figures in the New Bremen Building and Loan Association and had served that organization both as secretary and as president. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran church, as is his widow, and was for years a helpful factor in the affairs of that congregation. Henry Finke married Louise Wehrman, also a member of one of the pioneer families of the New Bremen community, a daughter of Henry and Helen Wehrman, and to this union were born seven children, Clara, Alice, Laura, Julius, Minerva, Arthur and Pearl, all of whom are married and who in the aggregate have brought to Mrs. Finke nineteen grandchildren, in all of whom she takes much pride and delight. Clara Finke married Chris Roettger and has two children, Bernice and Alvin. Alice Finke married Charles Garmhausen and has four children, Grace, Ora, Wilbur and Pearl. Laura Finke married George Kuenning and has three children, Lynn, Ralph and Wilfred. Julius Finke married Nelle Mooney and has two children, Doris and Dale. Minerva Finke married Fred Schroeder and has four children, Iva, Sylvia, Arthur and Lucile. Arthur Finke married Isabel Inderrieden and has two children, Floyd and Richard, and Pearl Finke married Fred Longworth and has two children, Otis and Dale. Since her husband's death Mrs. Finke has continued to make her home at New Bremen, where she is very pleasantly situated and in the social and cultural life of which community she has for many years been a gentle influence.

THE FERRIS BROTHERS (William and Ralph), plumbers and dealers in plumbers supplies at St. Marys and the latter of whom is a veteran of the World war, are natives of the Empire state, but have been residents of St. Marys since the days of their boyhood. The brothers are sons of Albert and Mary Jane (McFarland) Ferris, both of whom were born in New York state and whose last days were spent in Ohio, the latter dying on October 5, 1921. The late Albert Ferris, who became well known in and about St. Marys during the height of oil activities hereabout, was born at Elmyra, N. Y., and was there reared. He early became connected with operations in the oil field and remained thus connected in the East until 1894, when he joined up with operations then being carried on in Ohio by the

Manhattan Oil Company and with his family moved to St. Marys, where he established his home. He was particularly engaged as a "field boss" and in this connection became widely known throughout the oil fields of Ohio, Indiana and Oklahoma and continued thus engaged until he met his death in a railway accident on the Erie tracks between Lima and Westminster in 1920. He was a Democrat, was thirty-two years a member of the Knights of the Maccabees and he and his wife were members of the Catholic church, in which faith their children were reared. They were the parents of seven children, one of whom died in infancy, the Ferris brothers having four sisters living. William Ferris, the elder of these two brothers, was born at Allentown, N. Y., in 1887 and was about seven years of age when his parents moved to St. Marys. He completed his schooling in the St. Marys schools and early became employed in the oil field and was thus engaged until in 1911, when he became employed in the establishment of the Jaspersen Supply Company at St. Marys, where he became thoroughly familiar with the details of the plumbing trade and of the plumbers supply business, his brother Ralph working alongside him in this line. The latter served as a soldier during the World war and upon his return in 1918 the brothers started in the plumbing business for themselves at St. Marys, opening a shop in the old Hormel building on West Spring street. They did so well in their new venture that these quarters soon were found to be inadequate and they moved their establishment to 124 West South street, buying the building at that number and remodeling it to accommodate their plant. In addition to doing a general plumbing business the brothers are local agents for the American Radiator Company and are doing well. William Ferris is a Democrat, and in 1920 was elected to represent his ward in the city common council. He is a member of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, and he and his wife are members of the Catholic church. On June 22, 1920, William Ferris was united in marriage to Joanna Vocke, daughter of John and Clara (DeCurtins) Vocke, of Sidney, Ohio, and to this union two daughters have been born, Mary Catherine and Martha Ann. Ralph Ferris was born at Allentown, N. Y., in 1889, and was thus about five years of age when he came with his parents to St. Marys, where he received his schooling and grew to manhood. He early had some valuable experience as a helper in the oil field and then turned his attention to mechanics, working in machine and blacksmith shops until he entered the employ of the Jaspersen Supply Company, where he became thoroughly grounded in the plumber's trade. In 1917, he entered war service and was attached to the land service of the naval aviation corps,

a part of the American Expeditionary Force, and with this force spent six months overseas, his whole term of service covering a period of nine months. Upon his return he became engaged in the plumbing business in association with his brother William, as set out above, and has since been thus engaged. One June 6, 1922, Ralph Ferris was united in marriage to Amelia Kammer, daughter of Jacob and Caroline (Aronald) Kammer, of St. Marys. He and his wife are members of the Catholic church and are Democrats. He is affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus and with the local lodge of the Improved Order of Red Men. The Ferris brothers are energetic and progressive in their business methods and have made a definite place for themselves in the industrial and commercial life of their home town.

WILLIAM J. ZINT, of the firm of Zint Bros., shoe merchants, of Wapakoneta, was born at Wapakoneta on December 16, 1867, and is a son of Joseph and Otilla (Braun) Zint, the latter of whom was born at Tiffin, Ohio. The late Joseph Zint, who was for many years a well known resident of Wapakoneta, was born in the canton of St. Gall, Switzerland, the largest of the cantons of that republic, and upon completing his service in the army of the republic became employed as a member of the famous Swiss guards of the court of the King of Italy. For eight years he served in these Royal Guards and then he came to the United States and joined an elder brother who had preceded him to this country and had settled at Glandorf, in Putnam county, this state. Not long afterward he moved to Wapakoneta and was presently married there to Otilla Braun, who was born at Tiffin, this state. After his marriage he established his home at Wapakoneta, and there his last days were spent, his death occurring in the spring of 1911. To him and his wife were born nine children, two of whom—August and Henry—are deceased, the others, besides the subject of this sketch being Jacob, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume; Francis, Anna, George, Ida and Charles. Reared at Wapakoneta, where he was born, William J. Zint received his schooling in the parochial schools of that city. He early became employed as a clerk in a grocery store and not long afterward transferred his connection to the Timmermeister & Rogers store, where he remained for twenty years, at the end of which time, in 1909, he and his brother Jacob formed a partnership under the name of Zint Bros., and became engaged in the shoe business on their own account. This arrangement continued for ten years, or until 1919, when the business was discontinued; but in 1922 the brothers, William and Jacob T. Zint, resumed their old line and opened a new and up-to-date shoe store at 129 West Auglaize street, where they have since been carrying on the business under

the name of Zint Bros., and have one of the most attractive shoe stores in this part of the state. William J. Zint has long been interested in bee culture, one of the most successful apiarists in this section, and as a "side line" has ten colonies of bees, to which he gives his interested attention. He is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce and has long given his earnest attention to such movements as are designed to promote the general commercial activities of the town. In 1901 William J. Zint was united in marriage to Emma Ambus, daughter of Jacob and Charlotte (Allenbach) Ambus, of the neighboring county of Shelby, and to this union three children have been born, but one of whom, Dorothy, is living, the others having been Louise and Evelyn. Mr. Zint is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church and takes a proper interest in parish affairs. He also gives proper attention to local civic affairs and is now serving as a director of the board of safety.

KARL H. SHERMAN, postmaster at Minster and one of the best known young men in Auglaize county, was born at Minster and has lived there all his life. Mr. Sherman was born on January 28, 1893, and is a son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Goeke) Sherman, the latter of whom also was born in this county, daughter of Mathias Goeke, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and is still living. She is a sister of ex-Congressman Goeke of this district. The late Bernard Sherman, who died while serving as postmaster of Minster, was born in the vicinity of Ft. Loramie, in the neighboring county of Shelby, and was there reared, early becoming engaged as a school teacher, a profession he followed for eight or ten years, teaching in schools in the Minster and Ft. Loramie neighborhoods, and after his marriage established his home at Minster, where he presently became editor of the Minster *Post*, which he had bought, and of which he continued proprietor for several years, at the end of which time he sold the newspaper and became engaged in the farm implement business at Minster. Mr. Sherman continued in this business at Minster for about fifteen years, or until he was appointed postmaster of Minster in 1915, after which he gave his chief attention to the duties of that office, and was thus serving at the time of his death, on January 25, 1916. He was an earnest Democrat and for years had been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in this county. To Bernard Sherman and wife were born nine children, all of whom are still living save one—Bernard Jr., who died at the age of eight years—the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Mathias J., Bernardine, Frederick, Genevieve, Alma, Irene and Mary. Reared at Minster, where he was born, Karl H. Sherman received his schooling in the excellent schools of that place, and as a lad became a helpful assistant to his father in the latter's

KARL H. SHERMAN

farm implement store, and was connected with that establishment at the time of his father's death in 1916. He also had gained meantime a comprehensive working knowledge of the details of the local postoffice, and at the death of his father was appointed to succeed the latter as postmaster. In the following March he received his regular appointment and commission as postmaster at Minster and has since been serving in that important public capacity, one of the most popular postmasters the town ever had. Mr. Sherman is a Democrat and is looked upon as one of the junior leaders of that party in his part of the county. He is a member of St. Augustine's Catholic church and is affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus and with the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, of which latter organization he has served as treasurer, and is in other ways an active and helpful factor in the general social activities of the community.

JOHN BRANDEWIE, a well known and substantial retired manufacturer of Minster, formerly and for years manager of the plant of the Minster Cooperage Company and thus an active and forceful figure in the industrial life of that community, was born at Minster and has been a resident of that place all his life. Mr. Brandewie was born on December 15, 1856, and is a son of Bernard and Elizabeth (Bornhorst) Brandewie, natives of Germany, who came up here from Cincinnati in pioneer days and became useful and influential members of the Minster community. Bernard Brandewie was about seven years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family locating at Cincinnati, whence two or three years later they came up into this part of the state and settled on a farm in the "Egypt" neighborhood, southwest of Minster. It was on this pioneer farm that Bernard Brandewie grew to manhood. He then returned to Cincinnati and became employed there in a cooperage plant. Some little time after his marriage in that city he returned to Minster and opened a cooperage shop of his own at that place. He found a ready outlet for the products of his shop through the canal trade, operating his cooperage during the winters and running canal boats during the open season, and was thus engaged until the coming of the machine mills put the old cooperage shops out of business, when he closed his shop and began working for the Herkenhoff Company, with which concern he remained until his retirement at a ripe old age. To him and his wife were born nine children, eight of whom grew to maturity, those besides the subject of this sketch being Catherine, Louise (deceased), Anton, Joseph (deceased), Henry, Frank and Benjamin, the Brandewie connection in the present generation thus being a considerable one. Reared at Minster, John Brandewie received his schooling in the

schools of that place and early applied himself to his father's vocation as a cooper, taking employment in the Herkenhoff plant, where he was engaged for eight or ten years, at the end of which time he became engaged, in association with his elder brother Anton, in the retail meat business at Minster. For about ten years Mr. Brandewie was engaged in this business and then he sold his interest in the place to his brother and in 1890 became the manager of the extensive local plant of the Minster Cooperage Company, in which he had a considerable financial interest, and for thirty years he continued thus engaged or until the concern sold out in 1920, when he retired from business and has since been living retired, very comfortably situated at his pleasant home in Minster. Mr. Brandewie is a Republican, one of the real "veterans" of that party in Jackson township, where it is said that in former days the finding of a Republican ballot in the ballot box was regarded by the election judges as an "accident" and not counted, and he has for years taken an earnest interest in local civic affairs. He and his family are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church and he was for five years a member of the board of trustees of the valuable property held by that parish at Minster. He also is a member of the St. Augustine Orphan Society and has for many years taken a warm interest in parish affairs. In 1885 John Brandewie was united in marriage to Nora Manahan, daughter of Timothy and Mary (McNamara) Manahan, and to this union seven children have been born, Bernardine, Ida, Arthur, Blanche, Stanley, Hedwig, who completed her schooling at St. Vincents-on-the-Hudson, and Oscar (deceased), the first four named of whom are married. Bernardine Brandewie married L. Hierholzer. Ida Brandewie married Harry Brinkmann and has one child, a son, John, named in honor of his maternal grandfather. Arthur Brandewie married Loretta Hinken and Blanche Brandewie married Roy Klipstein. Stanley Brandewie, the younger son, is deputy recorder of Auglaize county and is one of the most popular and accommodating young men connected with the administration of county affairs in the court house today.

JESSE W. CLARK, a charter member of the Northwestern Ohio Teachers' Association, a veteran school teacher of more than forty years standing in that profession and thus one of the best known men in Auglaize county, where his professional activities have been carried on for the most part, now making his home at St. Marys, where he has resided for some years past, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has lived in this county all his life with the exception of a period of three years during which he was teaching in the state of Oklahoma. Mr. Clark was born on a farm in the southeast quarter of

section 28 of Moulton township, a little more than a mile northeast of the village of Moulton, October 3, 1864, and is a son and the last born of the nine children—five sons and four daughters—of Jesse and Lucy (Rogers) Clark, both of whom also were born in Ohio, in Delaware county, the latter a daughter of Gay Rogers, a prominent pioneer farmer of that county. Jesse Clark, an honored veteran of the Civil war, who gave his life to the cause of the Union, was born in Delaware county on June 10, 1827, a son of one of the pioneer farmers and landowners of that county, and was reared there. Following his marriage in 1841 to Lucy Rogers he came to this part of the state and entered a tract of land in the southeast quarter of section 28 of Moulton township, which then was attached to Allen county, but which, in 1848, became a part of Auglaize county, and there established his home. To his original entry he presently added until he became the owner of 137 acres and was getting a good start toward the making of a fine farm when the Civil war broke out. He presently enlisted his services in behalf of the Union and went to the front as a member of the 175th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he was serving when captured by the enemy and incarcerated in the infamous Libby prison at Richmond, Va. There he contracted measles and resulting complications reduced him to such a physical state that he was exchanged and was sent to the military hospital at Columbus, Ohio, where, after a lingering illness, he died. His widow, who had been keeping the family together and the farm work going during his absence in the army, continued on the farm and after awhile married Mr. Lawrence. She continued to make her home in this county and here spent her last days, her death occurring in 1903. Jesse W. Clark was born while his father was serving as a soldier in the army and the father never saw his last born child. He received his early schooling in the school house in old district No. 8, which school house stood on a corner of the Clark farm, and then entered the Wapakoneta high school, from which he was graduated in 1880. He early became attracted to the thought of becoming a teacher and the year before his graduation, when but fifteen years of age, taught a summer term of three months of school in his home township. From that time to the present he has been continuously engaged in teaching school. He supplemented his high school course by summer courses in the normal school at Ada, Ohio, and at Valparaiso, Ind., and early became recognized as one of the thoughtful and efficient teachers of this county, his service in this connection being rendered in Moulton, Washington, Salem, Noble, St. Marys and Logan townships. After teaching in this county for thirty-nine years Mr. Clark became attracted to a proposition which came to him from Tulsa, Okla., and he accepted a position in the

grade schools of that city. He remained there for three years and then returned to this county and to his old home at St. Marys, where he since has resided, during the past two winters serving as a teacher in the schools of Morgan county. In all his service of more than forty years in the school room Mr. Clark has never missed a day on account of illness, an extraordinary record. He has for many years taken an active interest in the various "get-together" movements of the teachers, is a charter member of the Northwestern Ohio Teachers Association and a member of the Teachers Reading Circle. He is a member of the local lodge of the Woodmen of the World at St. Marys and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at that place, and are Republicans. In 1886 Jesse W. Clark was united in marriage to Abbie E. Longsworth, who also was born in this county, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Albert Leo Clark, who is now living in the neighboring county of Mercer. Mrs. Clark was born in St. Marys township and is a daughter of John and Ruth (Hockenberry) Longsworth, both members of pioneer families in this county and the former of whom was born in that same township and has always lived on the farm on which he was born in the northeastern part of the township, since the death of his wife having made his home there with the family of his daughter, Mrs. William Kohlhorst. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have a pleasant home at 935 East Spring street, St. Marys, and take a proper part in the social and cultural activities of their home town.

CHRIS HARJEHAUSEN, a well known retired farmer of German township, now living at New Bremen, where he has made his home since 1916, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Harjehausen was born on a farm in the southern part of German township on December 1, 1855, and is a son of Dietrich and Mary (Kuhlman) Harjehausen, both of whom were born in Germany, but had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth. Dietrich Harjehausen lived at Cincinnati for awhile after coming to America and then came up into this part of the state and located in Auglaize county, where he spent the remainder of his life. Not long after becoming a member of the New Bremen community he married here, his wife's parents having been among the early settlers of that community, and established his home on a farm on the township line southwest of New Bremen, where eventually he became the owner of 120 acres in sections 17 and 18, and there he spent his last days, one of the useful and influential citizens of that part of the township. To him and his wife were born eight children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Elizabeth and Mary. Reared on that farm, Chris Harjehausen received his school-

ing in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued assistant to his father in the labors of developing the farm, it having been a heavy task to clear and drain the land, create a farm plant and get the fields under cultivation, but the job eventually was done and the Harjehausens made a good farm out of the place. After his marriage Mr. Harjehausen rented the home place and continued to make his home there. Upon the death of his parents he acquired possession of the farm and made further improvements, gradually bringing the place up to a high state of cultivation, and there he made his home until his retirement in 1916 and removal to New Bremen, where he since has resided and where he is very comfortably situated. In 1922 Mr. Harjehausen sold his farm of 120 acres and has since devoted himself to other forms of investment. Chris Harjehausen married Minnie Ahlers, who also is a member of one of the old families of that part of the county, and to this union three children have been born, Alvin, Edward and Oscar Harjehausen. Edward Harjehausen married Amelia Fark. The Harjehausens are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen and Mr. Harjehausen has served as an elder of the congregation, as a member of the board of trustees of the church and as president of the church council, for many years having been recognized as one of the substantial pillars of that congregation. In his political views he reserves the right to "independence" of expression at the polls.

ANTON J. BECKMAN, dealer in coal and builders' supplies at Minster and regarded as one of the most alert and energetic business men at that place, was born on a farm in Jackson township, in the Minster neighborhood, November 17, 1883, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Railing) Beckman, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here. The late Henry Beckman was reared on a farm and followed that vocation all his life, the owner of a farm of forty acres in the northeast quarter of section 26 of Jackson township, just northeast of the town of Minster, where his death occurred in 1918. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, but two of whom are now living, the subject of this sketch and his sister, Josephine. By a previous marriage Henry Beckman had two children, a son, Clem, and a daughter, Mrs. Clara Schwartz. Reared on the home farm at the edge of Minster, Anton J. Beckman received his schooling in the Minster schools and during the days of his youth and young manhood remained on the farm, helpful in the labor of developing the same, and was thus chiefly occupied until in 1912, when he became engaged in the coal business at Minster and has ever since been thus engaged, now the proprietor of the largest coal yard in that town. Upon starting this business Mr. Beckman bought the tract upon which his business is carried

on, erected substantial buildings on the same and went into the business right. Not long afterward, as the business developed, he added a line of general builders' supplies and thus carries on the two departments of his business under the one head and is doing well in his operations. Mr. Beckman is a member of the local lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster. In his political views he is a Democrat with "independent" leanings. Anton J. Beckman married Cecelia Bensman, daughter of William Bensman, and to this union have been born four children, Lucile, Wilbur, Leroy and Virginia. The Beckmans have a very pleasant home at Minster.

JOHN G. HEINRICH, former mayor of Wapakoneta and former president of the city council, formerly and for years engaged in the hotel business in that city, at the same time carrying on a general insurance business, in which latter line he still is active—one of the best known insurance men in Auglaize county—was born at Wapakoneta and has resided in that city all his life. Mr. Heinrich was born in the old Henry House on Willipie street—in its day one of the best known hostelries in this section of Ohio—on February 14, 1865, and is a son of William and Catherine (Herbst) Heinrich, the latter of whom also was born at Wapakoneta, in 1840, daughter of John Herbst and wife, who had settled there not long after the departure of the Indians and had thus become useful and influential pioneers of that community. The late William Heinrich, former treasurer of Auglaize county, was born at Braunsfels, in Rhenish Prussia, August 2, 1830, and was a son of George Heinrich and wife, who later became substantial residents of this county. William Heinrich received excellent schooling in his native land and at the age of sixteen years, in 1846, came to the United States and secured employment in New York city. Three years later he was joined there by his parents and the other members of the family, his father having come over with a view to becoming a landowner and taking up agricultural pursuits, and at the solicitation of friends who had preceded them here came on out into Ohio and settled on a tract of eighty acres of land they were able to secure in section 19 of Noble township, this county, a tract that still remains in the family. William Heinrich was just about coming into his majority when the family settled on that pioneer farm and he remained there, helping to clear and develop the same until his marriage to Catherine Herbst in 1860, he then being thirty years of age, when he became a resident of Wapakoneta and established there the Heinrich hotel at the northeast corner of Willipie and Main streets, a place which by common usage came to be known as the Henry House and which he continued to operate

until his death, or for a period of nearly fifty years. Not long after he had started his hotel Mr. Heinrich also became engaged in the insurance business and in this latter line also remained engaged until his death. He took an active part in general public affairs and in 1880 was elected treasurer of Auglaize county and thus served a term in that responsible public capacity. Upon leaving the treasurer's office he continued active in the hotel business until his death in 1909 and at his passing left a good memory. His wife had preceded him to the grave just about a year, her death having occurred in 1908. They were members of the German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, of whom four survive, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, William C. and Charles A. Heinrich, of Wapakoneta, and a sister, Mrs. Catherine Doty, of New York city. Reared at Wapakoneta, John G. Heinrich grew up familiar with the changing conditions which in the days of his youth began to transform the town from a sort of backwoods village to a progressive, forward-looking county seat town, and his schooling was received in the local schools, this being supplemented by a course in a business college at Cleveland. He early became a valued assistant to his father in the management of the hotel and also early took up the details of the extensive insurance business his father had developed, continuing thus associated in business with his father until the latter's death in 1909, since which time he has been carrying on his insurance agencies alone, the old hotel long ago having been abandoned. Mr. Heinrich has for years been looked upon as one of the leaders of the Republican party in this county and has taken his part in public service at Wapakoneta, having served a term as mayor of the city (1898-1900) and two terms (1913-1917) as president of the city council. He has a well equipped office at 8 East Willipie street in the Brown Theater building, and has long been recognized as one of the leading insurance underwriters in this section of the state. Mr. Heinrich is a member of the German Lutheran church and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and with the local tent of the Knights of the Maccabees. John G. Heinrich has been twice married. In 1890 he was united in marriage to Maud Nichols, daughter of Dr. J. H. Nichols, of Wapakoneta, and to that union three children were born, a son, Roland H. Heinrich, and two daughters, Mrs. Susan Hauss, wife of E. A. Hauss, of Wapakoneta, and Miss Grace Heinrich, who now resides at Toledo. The mother of these children died in 1896 and in 1907 Mr. Heinrich married Sarah Cutshall, daughter of Daniel Cutshall, of Putnam county. To this latter union three children have been born, Helen, Marie and John G. Jr., all of whom are at home.

GEORGE H. KNOSTMAN, secretary-treasurer and general manager of the Superior Cigar Box Company of Minster, a former member of the Minster town council and present member of the board of public affairs, leader of the Minster cornet band, and in other ways an active figure in the general industrial, commercial, civic and social life of that town, was born at Minster, a member of one of the real pioneer families there, and has lived there all his life. Mr. Knostman was born on October 18, 1887, and is a son of Joseph and Josephine (Pieper) Knostman, both of whom also were born at Minster, their respective parents having been among the early settlers of that community. Joseph Knostman, who is still living at Minster, a well-known carpenter there, is a son of the shoemaker Knostman, who came up from Cincinnati with the Stallo colony in the middle '30s of the past century and helped establish Stallo Town, which later came into its present name of Minster, and the Knostmans thus have been here since the very beginning of the settlement. To Joseph Knostman and wife six children were born, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Matilda, Margaret and Isabella, and two brothers, Louis and Oscar Knostman. Reared at Minster, George H. Knostman received his schooling in the local schools and early became employed in the local cigar factory, there becoming a proficient cigar maker. For seven years he followed the trade of cigar maker and then he transferred his services to the Henry Ritter cigar-box factory and was there when, two or three years later, this concern moved to Deshler, Ohio. Mr. Knostman then became one of the prominent factors in the promotion of the Superior Cigar Box Company at Minster, and upon its organization he was elected secretary-treasurer and general manager of the concern and has since been occupying that position, having general charge of the operations of the plant and the distribution of its products. When this company started in business the plant had a capacity of around 300 boxes a day, but under Mr. Knostman's efficient direction the plant has been expanded under the demands of the rapidly growing trade until now it can turn out 5,000 or more boxes a day. The company began operations in the old Crescent Club's building, which it bought for factory purposes, but it was not long until it outgrew those quarters, and it was then, in 1914, that the present attractive and up-to-date factory building was erected, and it is now apparent that even this building will have to be extended before long. About forty persons are employed in the plant. Mr. Knostman is a Democrat and has taken an active interest in local civic affairs. He served for four years as a member of the town council and is now a member of the board of public affairs, being recognized as one of the alert, progressive young men of the town. Ever since the days of his boyhood Mr. Knostman has been

GEORGE H. KNOSTMAN

one of the leaders in local musical circles at Minster, and for the past eighteen years has been the instructor and leader of the Minster cornet band. He has an interest in the Fischer Music Company at Minster and is also treasurer of the Crescent Amusement Company. He is one of the leaders of the local Commercial Club and is affiliated with the local organizations of the Knights of St. John, the Knights of Columbus, and the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Minster; with the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta, and with the Travelers' Protective Association, while he and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church. George H. Knostman married Anna Meyer, daughter of Henry Meyer, also a member of one of the old families of this county, and to this union have been born six children, Norbert, Royal, Alvina, Verona, Dorothy and Mary Magdalene. The Knostmans have a pleasant home at Minster, and Mr. and Mrs. Knostman have ever taken a helpful part in the general social activities of the community.

FRANCIS MARION CASE, formerly and for years active in the operations in the oil fields hereabout and now engaged in the shoe repair trade at St. Marys, one of the well known residents of that city, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, March 4, 1851, and is a son of John and Mary (Walterhouse) Case, the former of whom was a farmer of that county and who died when his son Francis was two years of age. His widow survived for many years and her last days were spent in Missouri. When he was five years of age Francis Marion Case was adopted informally into the household of a family of the name of Reisinger, living on a farm ten miles north of Versailles, in Ripley county, Indiana, and with this family he remained, helping in the labors of the farm and receiving his schooling in the neighboring schools, until he was seventeen years of age, when he obtained farm employment in the vicinity of Greensburg, in Decatur county, Indiana. Three years later, when he had attained his majority, he returned to his birthplace in Hamilton county, this state, and was there employed in one way and another for two years, after which he came to Auglaize county and located at St. Marys, where he became engaged as a teamster in the canal trade, and thus was here when the oil and gas "boom" started here in the late '80s. He then went to Decatur, Ind., where he stayed nine years and then returned and for ten years worked as a pumper in the St. Marys oil field and then became employed in the spoke works, where he remained for sixteen years or until ill health compelled his temporary retirement. Upon recovering from this invalidism, which confined him for a year or more, he took up the shoe repair business, opening a shop in the rear of his home in the East End, and in a short time found the business growing on his hands so rapidly that he was compelled to seek

more central and more extensive quarters. It was then that he opened his present repair shop at 312 East Spring street, where he ever since has been located and where he is doing very well. Francis Marion Case has been thrice married and by his first wife, who was Caroline Helms, of this county, he has six children. By his second wife, who was Mrs. Evelyn Baker, a widow of St. Marys, he was the father of two children, one of whom died in 1901. Mr. Case is a member of the Presbyterian church and is a Republican. He formerly was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but of recent years has not been active in this order.

FRANK M. OLDIGES, manager of the Home Telephone Company at Minster, a former member of the common council of the town of Minster, former secretary of the Commercial Club and in other ways interested in the general commercial and civic development of that town, one of the best known and most progressive citizens of the town, was born at Minster and has ever regarded that place as his home, though for some years he was engaged elsewhere, telephone activities having engaged his attention since the days of his young manhood. Mr. Oldiges was born on February 7, 1880, and is a son of Rudolph and Mary C. (Eiting) Oldiges, the latter of whom also was born at Minster, a member of one of the real pioneer families of that place. The late Rudolph Oldiges, who in his generation was one of the well known citizens of Minster, a prominent manufacturer there, was a native of Germany who had come to this country with his parents when but a child, the family locating at Minster, where he grew to manhood and where he spent his last days. He was early trained as a wagon maker and in time became engaged in that business on his own account, he and Michael Jacobs operating a wagon shop for years at Minster. To Rudolph Oldiges and wife were born ten children, those besides the subject of this sketch (the third in order of birth) being John, Herman, Catherine, Theodore, Elizabeth, Minnie, Albert, Agnes and Ralph. Reared at Minster, where he was born Frank M. Oldiges received his schooling in the schools of that town and as a young man worked for some years as a farm hand in the neighborhood. He then became engaged in the erection department of the Bell Telephone Company and for about a year was employed with that company's construction crew in the southeastern part of Ohio, constructing toll lines. He then went to Decatur, Ind., where he was engaged as a telephone lineman for four years, at the end of which time he was made superintendent of the company's plant at Logan, in Hocking county, this state. Two years later he was transferred to the company's plant at Nelsonville, in Athens county, and was made manager there. In 1909, following the establishment of the Home Telephone Company at Minster, Mr. Oldiges

was secured as manager of that concern and thus returned to his old home town, where he ever since has remained and where he has done much to expand the interests and extend the operations of the company. When Mr. Oldiges took over the management of this plant there were but 253 subscribers. Now there are more than 500 and the plant has been improved to bring it up to date in every particular. Mr. Oldiges is a Democrat and has rendered public service as a member of the town council. He was one of the organizers of the Minster Commercial Club and has served as secretary of the same. He also was one of the organizers of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at Minster and has served as financial secretary of that body since its organization. He and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church and he is a member of the board of trustees of the valuable property interests held by that parish. Frank M. Oldiges married Minnie Hartley, daughter of Stephen Hartley, and to this union have been born four children, Francis, Mary Christina, Stephen and Charles. As will be seen by the above review, Mr. Oldiges by practical experience is acquainted with every detail of the telephone business, having been trained along this line "from the ground up," and he is one of the best known telephone men in this part of the state.

GEORGE J. ALTHOFF, former proprietor of the bakery at New Bremen and one of the best known citizens of that place, has been a resident of Ohio all his life. He was born on a farm in the Botkins neighborhood in the neighboring county of Shelby on May 26, 1882, and is a son of Chris W. and Anna (Kuenning) Althoff, both of whom were born in Auglaize county, members of pioneer families here, and the former of whom is still living, now a resident of New Bremen, where he has made his home since his retirement from the farm. Chris W. Althoff was born at New Bremen, where he grew to manhood. After his marriage he moved to Shelby county, where he bought a farm and where he continued farming until his retirement and removal to New Bremen, where he is now living. He still owns his farm of eighty acres. He has been twice married and by his first wife (Anna Kuenning) was the father of five children, three of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Walter and Cecile. Following the death of the mother of these children Mr. Althoff married Emma May and by this latter union has four children, Otto, Alvin, Malinda and Leona. Reared on the home farm in Shelby county, George J. Althoff received his schooling there and during his youth helped on the farm. He later took up the baker's trade and for some time "worked around" at that trade, becoming thoroughly acquainted with the details of the business, and in 1916 became a partner of his brother in the operation of a bakery

at Botkins, where he remained until in February, 1920, when he bought the bakery at New Bremen. This bakery had a capacity of 300 loaves of bread a day, or its equivalent, and the products of his ovens attained a wide popularity in the neighborhood. In the spring of 1922 Mr. Althoff sold his bakery on account of failing health. He is the owner of a farm in Shelby county but continues to make his home at New Bremen. . George J. Althoff married Emma Eversman and has one child, a daughter, Irma. Mr. and Mrs. Althoff are members of St. Peter's Evangelical church and are Republicans.

KARL KUEHNER, grocer and baker, proprietor of the only bakery in Minster and one of the best known men in that town, is a European by birth but has been a resident of this country since he was sixteen years of age. He was born in the kingdom of Prussia, which embraces nearly the whole of northern Germany, September 15, 1881, and is a son of Maurice and Elizabeth (Dorn) Kuehner, both of whom also were born in that country and the former of whom was a schoolmaster. Maurice Kuehner and his wife were the parents of three children, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Theobold and Adolph Kuehner. When he was sixteen years of age Karl Kuehner made his decision to come to this country. That was in 1897. He landed at the port of Baltimore and immediately sought employment. He became employed in the shops of the Baltimore & Ohio Railway Company at that place, but not long afterward went to Annapolis, Md., where he became employed in a bakery and where he discovered the vocation which possessed for him an especial appeal. At Annapolis he became thoroughly familiar with the details of the baker's business and two years later returned to Baltimore and took up work along that line there, and was at Baltimore at the time of the destructive fire in that city about twenty years ago. The bakery in which he was working was destroyed in this huge conflagration. Thus thrown out of employment he went to Aberdeen, Md., where he worked at his trade for two years, going thence to Oakland, in the same state, where he remained for a season, at the end of which time he came to Ohio and located at Sandusky, where he became engaged as the foreman in a large bakery. In the next year he went to Cleveland, where he remained until 1909, in which year he came down into this part of the state and opened a grocery and bakery at Minster, where he ever since has been located and where he has built up an excellent trade. Mr. Kuehner has the only bakery in Minster, the character of the products of his ovens long ago having proved so satisfactory to the local trade that competition is not necessary, and his place is equipped and conducted along strictly up-to-date lines. His ovens have a daily capacity of 500 loaves and his "pumpernickel," made after an old and world-famous Westphalian formula, is in

especially wide demand. Karl Kuehner married Edna Kramer, daughter of Frederick Kramer, of Minster, and has two children, a son and a daughter, Kenneth and Dorothy. In his political views Mr. Kuehner is a Democrat with independent leanings. He is a member of the Travelers Protective Association and is affiliated with the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Minster and with the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta.

HARRY G. KAH, proprietor of a well established retail meat market on Auglaize street in the city of Wapakoneta, was born on a farm in Duchouquet township, this county, January 25, 1874, and is a son of Christian K. and Margaret (Fisher) Kah, who later became residents of Wapakoneta, where their last days were spent. The late Christian K. Kah was a native of Germany and had come to this country with his parents in the days of his boyhood, the family coming on out to Ohio and settling in Shelby county, but later establishing their home in Auglaize county. It was in Shelby county that Christian K. Kah grew to manhood and after his marriage began his farming operations there. Presently, however, he moved up into Auglaize county and bought a farm of ninety acres in Duchouquet township. Some years later he disposed of that place to advantage and then returned to Shelby county, where he bought a farm of 160 acres and on this latter place made his home until his retirement from the farm and removal to Wapakoneta, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in 1919. His wife had preceded him to the grave in 1902. They were members of the Lutheran church and their twelve children were reared in that faith. Harry G. Kah was but a lad when his parents returned to Shelby county from Auglaize county and in the schools of the former county he completed his schooling. When twenty years of age, in 1894, he entered upon an apprenticeship to the butcher's trade at Wapakoneta and after acquiring a thorough initial experience along that line became engaged in the retail meat trade at Wapakoneta in association with Jacob Werner. In 1914 that partnership was dissolved and Mr. Kah then opened his present well equipped establishment on Auglaize street and has since been doing business there alone, and has done well. In 1899 Harry G. Kah was united in marriage to Bertha Menges, daughter of Gus and Caroline Menges, of Wapakoneta, and to that union have been born four children, Melvin, Adrian, Venard and Harry Edward. The Kahs have a pleasant home at 411 East Pearl street. Mr. and Mrs. Kah are members of the Lutheran church. Mr. Kah is a member of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and in his political views reserves the right to "independence."

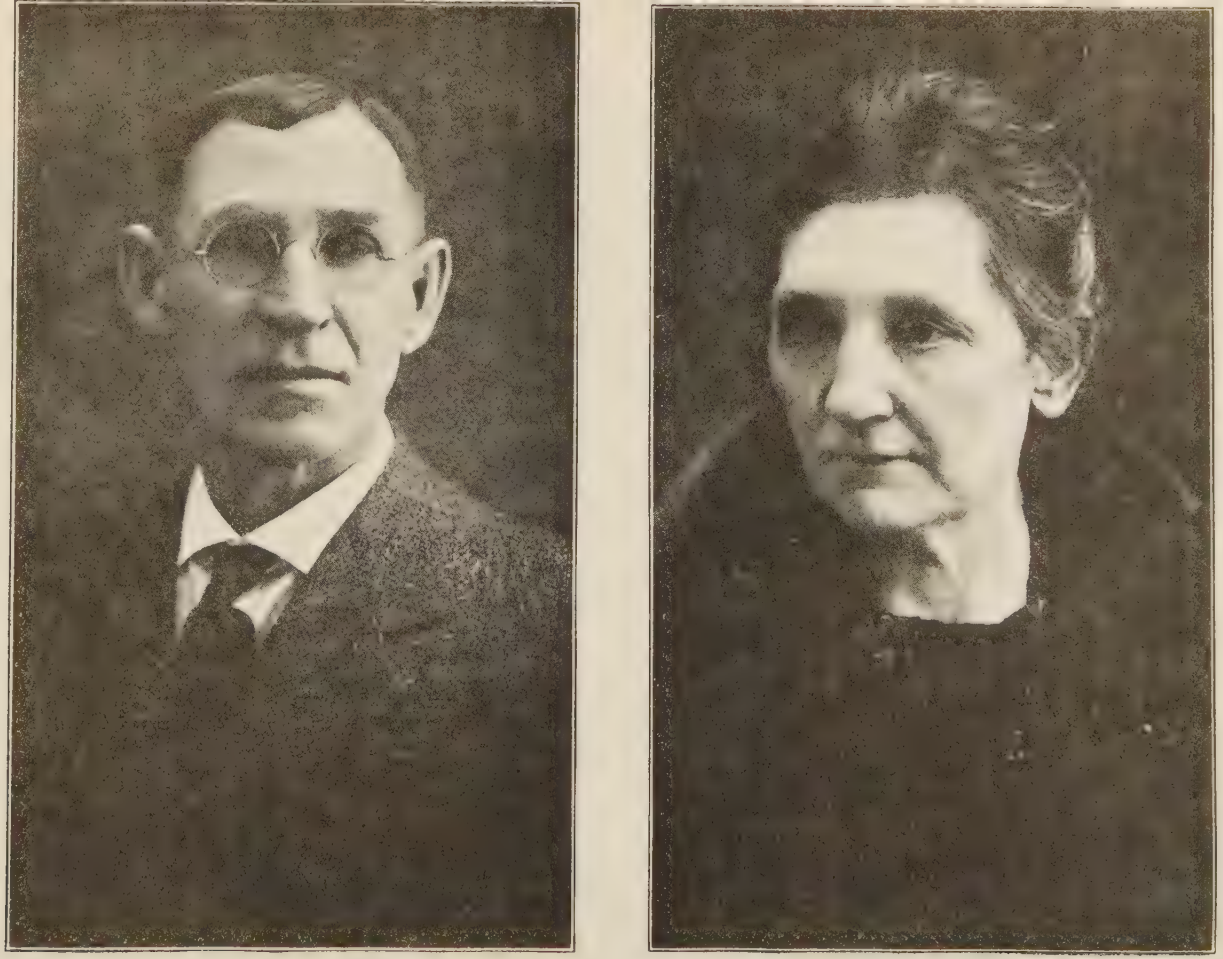
CONRAD BECKER, former trustee of Salem township and one of the best known and most substantial farmers and landowners of that township, proprietor of a fine farm on rural mail route No. 4 out of Spencerville, was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Allen on May 16, 1868, and is a son of George and Catharine (Meihls) Becker, who later became residents of the neighboring county of Van Wert. The late George Becker was a European by birth, born in Germany, where he grew to manhood. When twenty-two years of age, in 1865, he came to America and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating in Allen county, where he presently was married and where he took up farming and was thus engaged in that county until 1870, when he moved over into Van Wert county and bought a tract of 400 acres of timber land there and settled down to the task of clearing and draining the same and making a farm out of it. On that place, which he gradually brought under cultivation, he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there on August 25, 1914. To George Becker and wife were born eleven children, seven of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch—the eldest—being Elizabeth, George, William, Anna, Theodore and Tina. As will be seen by a comparison of dates above, Conrad Becker was but two years of age when his parents moved from Allen county onto their big timber tract in Van Wert county and he grew to manhood on this latter place, thoroughly familiar with the hard details of clearing and improving a virgin timber tract. He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and after his marriage at the age of twenty-five years continued to make his home on the home place for about five years, or until in 1898, when he came down into Auglaize county and bought the farm of 213 acres in Salem township on which he is now living, and ever since has made his home there. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Becker has made extensive improvements on the same and now has an admirable farm plant. He and his sons carry on their operations in accordance with modern methods of agriculture and are doing well. Mr. Becker is a Democrat and has long been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in Salem township, for six years having served as one of the trustees of the township. He and his wife are members of the New Salem Presbyterian church, and their children have been reared in the faith of that communion. It was in 1893 that Conrad Becker was united in marriage to Jane E. Purdy, who was born in Van Wert county, daughter of Ephraim and Susan Purdy, and to this union four children have been born, Catherine, George E., William C. and John R., all of whom are married save the last named. Catherine Becker married Walter W. Miller, of Salem township, and has two children, Velma J. and Dorothy. George E. Becker married Nell Hays, also of Salem township, and has one child, Dona Jean, and William C. Becker

married Myrtle Taylor and also lives in Salem township. The Beckers have a pleasant home on their farm and have ever taken an interested part in the community's general social activities.

WILLIAM P. SHIPMAN, a member of the board of township trustees for Noble township and a well known farmer of that township, residing on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys, was born in Noble township and has resided there all his life. Mr. Shipman was born on February 17, 1884, and is a son of John N. and Louise (Haas) Shipman, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. John N. Shipman, who is now living retired at St. Marys, was born in Cincinnati and was three years of age when he came to Auglaize county with his parents, John L. and Anna Shipman, the family settling on a farm in the south half of section 35 of Noble township, about two miles northeast of St. Marys, where they established their home, John L. Shipman becoming one of the substantial pioneer farmers of that section. On that place John N. Shipman grew to manhood and after his marriage became a farmer on his own account, the owner at one time of 240 acres of land thereabout. He continued actively engaged in farming and stock raising until the death of his first wife, after which he retired from farming, his son Cass then taking charge of the farm. He continued to make his home on the farm, however, until his marriage in 1914 to Mrs. Rebecca Turner, after which he moved to St. Marys, where he and his wife are now living. By his first marriage John N. Shipman was the father of nine children, seven of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having one sister, Mildred, and five brothers, Leonard, Herman W., Raymond V., Lewis Cass and John V. Shipman. Reared on the home farm in the southeastern part of Noble township, William P. Shipman received his schooling in the school house in district No. 6 (the Yahl school) and from the days of his boyhood was a helpful factor in the labors of his father's farm. After his marriage he continued on the home place, renting from his father, and is still living there, renting a tract of sixty acres. In addition to his general farming Mr. Shipman for the past six years and more has been operating a threshing rig throughout that section, and has thus become one of the best known men in that part of the county. He is a Republican and has from his earliest voting days taken an interested part in local civic affairs. In 1918 he was appointed to fill a vacancy in the board of township trustees and by successive elections has ever since held that position, ably performing the duties of that responsible office. He and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. William P. Shipman married Anna Moehring, daughter of Christian and Sophia Moehring, also of this county, and to this union three children have been born, Lewis, Frederick and Guy. The Shipmans have a pleasant

farm home and have ever taken an interested part in the general social activities of the community in which they reside.

AUGUST HUENKE, a well-known and substantial landowner and farmer of St. Marys township, now living retired on his well-kept place in the northeast quarter of section 29 of that township, was born on the place on which he is now living, a member of one of the pioneer families of that part of the county, and has lived there all his life. Mr. Huenke was born on October 4, 1857, and is a son of Henry and Louise (Strafer) Huenke, both natives of Germany, who were married in Ohio, and who became substantial residents of St. Marys township, where they reared their family. Henry Huenke was born in the kingdom of Hanover on September 26, 1812, and remained there until 1838, when he came to this country, and not long afterward located at New Bremen. That was about the time operations on the construction of the canal and the Grand Reservoir were beginning to get well under way, and for some time after coming here he worked on the construction of the reservoir. In July, 1843, he married Louise Strafer, and for some time thereafter was engaged in the hotel business, but not finding this to his liking, sold the hotel and bought a tract of forty acres of land on the Cloverford road, in St. Marys township, and began farming. Three years later he bought an "eighty" in the northeast quarter of section 29 of that township, the place where his son, August, is now living, and there established his home and spent the remainder of his life, coming to be the owner of 335 acres and a well-improved farm plant. To him and his wife were born ten children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Henry, Albert, William, Louis, Louise, Emma, Alice, Anna and Lillie, so that the Huenke connection hereabout in the present generation is a no inconsiderable one. Reared on that pioneer farm in St. Marys township, August Huenke received his schooling in what was known as the Huenke school, and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing the farm. He remained at home until the death of his parents, after which he came into possession of the home "eighty," and has ever since continued to make that his home, in the meantime adding to his holdings until now he has a well-improved farm of 130 acres. Mr. Huenke continued actively engaged in farming and stock raising until his retirement from the personal labors of the farm in 1914, since which time he has been content to take things somewhat easier than during the more strenuous years of his career. In addition to his general farming, he for years gave much attention to his live stock interests and was widely known as a breeder of heavy draught horses. He and his wife are Republicans. They have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of New Bremen and are quite comfortably situated. Mrs. Huenke was born (Alvina



MR. AND MRS. AUGUST HUENKE

Koeper) in New Bremen and is a daughter of Henry and Charlotte (Wittinbrink) Koeper, both of whom were born in Germany, but were married in this country and many years ago made their home in New Bremen. Henry Koeper was a cooper, a vocation he followed for years, or until his retirement. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, those besides Mrs. Huenke being Minnie, Emma, Clara, Luella, Ona, John and William.

JACOB BIGLER, former superintendent of the Auglaize county infirmary and a well known and substantial landowner of this county, now living retired from the farm and engaged as a painting contractor at Wapakoneta, where he has made his home for the past twenty years and more, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since the days of his young manhood. Mr. Bigler was born on a farm in the Cridersville neighborhood up over the line in Allen county on May 20, 1861, and is a son of Engelhart and Lydia A. (Mowrey) Bigler, whose last days were spent in Auglaize county. The late Engelhart Bigler was a Pennsylvanian, born in York county in 1836, a son of John Bigler, and was but a lad when he came to Ohio with his parents, the family settling in Auglaize county. One of his brothers, Henry Bigler, was killed in battle while serving as a soldier of the Union during the Civil war. When he was thirteen years of age Engelhart Bigler made his home with the family of his uncle, Jacob Danner, in the vicinity of Cridersville, in Allen county, and remained there until his marriage at the age of twenty-five years to Lydia Mowrey, daughter of Jacob Mowrey, an extensive landowner of that county. Engelhart Bigler had a forty-acre farm and after his marriage traded that place for a farm of eighty acres nearby, where he made his home for some years, at the end of which time he bought a farm in the Uniopolis neighborhood in this county and on this latter place spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in 1905. His widow survived him for ten years, her death occurring in 1915. They were the parents of two children, Jacob Bigler having a sister, Lavina, wife of Levi Fess, a brother of Congressman Fess of this state. Jacob Bigler was pretty well grown when the family moved from Allen county to their new home in the vicinity of Uniopolis, and his schooling was received in the schools of Allen county. He remained on the home farm, a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing the same, until his marriage at the age of twenty-seven years, when he established his home on a farm of 105 acres in Union township, this county, where he remained until his election in the spring of 1893 to the position of superintendent of the county infirmary. It was on March 7 of that year that Mr. Bigler took charge of the infirmary and he remained there for nine years, or until 1902, during which period numerous improvements were made to the infirmary, including the

erection of a bake house and a large ice house. Upon leaving the infirmary Mr. Bigler secured a home in Wapakoneta and has since resided there, he and his family now being very comfortably situated at 214 East Benton street. In addition to looking after his extensive land interests, for he is the owner of a fine farm of 230 acres in Union township and of a farm of 203 acres in Moulton township, Mr. Bigler is engaged in the paint contracting line and during the season keeps a force of five or six men employed as painters. It was in 1888 that Jacob Bigler was united in marriage to Sophia Presser, daughter of Frederick and May (Doering) Presser, both members of old families in this county, and to this union three children have been born, Clara, wife of Oscar Shaw, and Grace and Bernard, the two latter of whom are deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Shaw have two daughters, Mary Ann and Sandra Irene. Mr. and Mrs. Bigler are members of the Lutheran church and are Democrats. Mr. Bigler is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias and of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and has served as inner guard of the former lodge.

JOSEPH SAUM, better known to his friends as "Joe" Saum, a well known grocer of St. Marys and recognized as one of the "live" young business men of that city, was born at St. Marys and has lived there all his life, practically "growing up" in the business in which he is now successfully engaged. Mr. Saum was born in 1894 and is a son of Alexander and Rosa Saum, the latter of whom is still living at St. Marys. The late Alexander Saum, for many years one of the well known business men of that town, became engaged in the grocery business at St. Marys in 1892 and continued thus engaged until his death, which occurred on Easter Sunday in 1922. He was a Scottish Rite Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with the consistory and the shrine at Dayton, and was also affiliated with the Fraternal Order of Eagles and with the Woodmen of the World. To Alexander Saum and wife were born six children, four of whom, with the widow and mother, survive. Joe Saum was reared at St. Marys and his schooling was received in the excellent schools of that city. From the days of his boyhood he took an interest in the operations of his father's grocery store and in 1909, when but fifteen years of age, began to drive a huckster wagon throughout that trade area in behalf of the store, gaining thus an experience in practical merchandising which has been invaluable to him in his later mercantile operations. In 1916 he bought from his father a half interest in the store and this mutually agreeable partnership arrangement was continued until the death of his father in the spring of 1922, when he acquired the interest of the decedent in the store and has since been carrying on the business alone, having a very well equipped and admirably stocked place at

156 East Spring street, one of the most popular grocery stores in town. Joseph Saum married Clara Ternester, who also was born at St. Marys, daughter of John Ternester, and he and his wife have one child, a daughter, Rose Marie, who is in school. They attend the Methodist Episcopal church and are Republicans. Mr. Saum is a member of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and of the local camp of the Woodmen of the World. He is enterprising and progressive in his business methods and is doing well.

GEORGE J. RAPP, a substantial farmer and landowner of Auglaize county, now living practically retired at his home in St. Marys, where he has resided for many years, formerly engaged in the livery business in that city, was born on a farm in Morrow county, Ohio, June 17, 1862, and is a son of Mathias and Dorothy Rapp, who had come to this country from Europe and who later became residents of Auglaize county, where their last days were spent. Mathias Rapp and his wife were natives of the grand duchy of Baden and were living on a farm there when the political upheaval throughout Germany in 1848 turned the thoughts of so many freedom-loving Germans to the contemplation of new homes in America, bringing about that great tide of immigration which brought thousands of Germans to America in the early '50s. It was then that Mathias Rapp and his wife and the two children that then had been born to them came to this country and found a home in the vicinity of Cardington, in Morrow county, this state. For ten years or more Mathias Rapp was engaged in farming there as a tenant farmer and then in 1865 he came to Auglaize county with his family and bought an "eighty" on the east bank of the canal in the east half of section 1 of Salem township, the southeast corner of that township, and there established his home. He was a good farmer and as his affairs prospered added to his holdings until he became the owner of 182 acres. On this place he and his wife spent their last days, her death occurring in February, 1887, and his in August of that same year. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, eight of these having been born in Ohio. George J. Rapp was three years of age when his parents moved from Morrow county to Auglaize county and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Salem township, receiving his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. From the days of his boyhood he was a helpful assistant in the labors of developing the home farm and he continued operations with his father until his marriage at the age of twenty-five. That was about the time his father died and he continued to make his home on the farm, a portion of which he inherited, and there resided until 1896 when he moved to St. Marys and there became engaged in the livery stable business, establishing himself in business on the site of the present beautiful Memorial park between

the river and the canal. In 1919 when the park project was brought up Mr. Rapp disposed of his business and then resumed his active direction of his farming interests, for he had retained possession of his old home acres in Salem township and had besides bought a tract of thirty-six acres adjoining, and he since has been farming there, though still making his home at St. Marys, he and his wife having a very pleasant home at 206 North Spruce street. Mr. Rapp has a well improved farm and is doing well in his operations. It was in 1887, the year in which his parents died, that George J. Rapp was united in marriage to Cora A. Johns, who was born in this county, daughter of Ezra and Madora Ann (Halem) Johns, substantial pioneer farmers of the county, and to this union two children have been born, one who died in infancy and a daughter, Norma, who died in 1914 at the age of twenty-four years. Mr. and Mrs. Rapp are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at St. Marys and are Democrats. Mr. Rapp is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

JOHN L. SCHEER, superintendent of the New Bremen electric light and waterworks plant, was born on a farm in the eastern part of German township, this county, November 11, 1885, and is a son of Henry and Louise (Haney) Scheer, both of whom also were born in this same township, members of pioneer families here. Henry Scheer was a farmer all his life and he and his wife were the parents of seven children, all of whom are living save one, the subject of this sketch having one sister, Esther, and four brothers, William, Henry, Lafe and Herbert Scheer. Reared on the farm, John L. Scheer received his schooling in the Kettlersville school, over in the neighboring county of Shelby, and for some years after leaving school continued to work as a farmer. He then became engaged as a lineman for the New Bremen Telephone Company and has since made his home at New Bremen. For six years Mr. Scheer remained with the telephone company, in that time becoming thoroughly familiar with all details of the electrical side of that form of industry and then he accepted the position of superintendent of the city light and water plant and has so continued, having occupied this responsible position since 1914. During this period of Mr. Scheer's service with the light and water plant numerous improvements have been made to the plant with a view to its increasing efficiency and it long has been acknowledged that New Bremen has one of the most effective municipal waterworks and electric lighting plants in western Ohio. John L. Scheer married Alma Wissmann, daughter of Chris and Louise Wissmann, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at New Bremen. They are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and Mr. Scheer is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias. In his political views Mr. Scheer is an "independent" Democrat.

JAMES A. BLAKELEY, who died at his home in this county in January, 1923, was one of the best known and most substantial farmers in the northern part of Salem township and was the proprietor of a fine farm there on rural mail route No. 4 out of Spencerville, where he had resided since the days of his childhood. The late Mr. Blakeley was born in Wayne county, Ohio, September 10, 1852, and was a son of Seneca and Sarah (McCoy) Blakeley, who later became residents of Auglaize county and whose last days were spent here. Seneca Blakeley was born in Pennsylvania and was ten years of age when his parents came with their family to Ohio and settled in Wayne county. In this county he grew to manhood and after his marriage established himself on a farm there, remaining there until 1861 when he disposed of his interests in that county and with his family moved to Auglaize county and bought a tract of 120 acres in the northwest quarter of section 22 of Salem township, on the northern border of the county, and there established his permanent home. When Seneca Blakeley bought that farm it was an uncleared and unimproved timber tract and upon him and his sons fell the task of clearing the place and making a farm out of it. On that place Seneca Blakeley spent his last days, his death occurring in 1895, and his widow survived him for some years. They were the parents of two sons, the subject of this memorial sketch having had a brother, Herbert Blakeley, now deceased. James A. Blakeley was nine years of age when he came to Auglaize county with his parents in 1861 and he grew to manhood on the pioneer farm on the northern edge of Salem township. He married when twenty-two years of age and continued to make his home on the farm, operating there in association with his father until the latter's death, when he inherited eighty acres of the home place. Upon the death of his mother he inherited 100 acres of the old McCoy farm east of the Blakeley place, and had since made his home on this latter place, where he died in January, 1923, he then being in the seventy-first year of his age. Mr. Blakeley, with the assistance of his sons had the two farms in a fine state of cultivation and did well in his operations. He was a Democrat, as are his sons, and ever took a proper interest in local civic affairs. It was on December 3, 1874, that James A. Blakeley was united in marriage to Anna Groves, who was born in Champaign county, this state, and to this union eleven children were born, Emery, Laura, Etta, William, Sarah, Charles, Effie, Freeman, Verne, Minnie and James. Emery Blakeley, the eldest of these children and a veteran of the Spanish-American war, married Ida Young and has three children, Ernest, Clara and Stella. Laura Blakeley married Arthur Pierce and has one child, a daughter, Mabel. Etta Blakeley married Clarence Bennett and has two children, Irene and James. William Blakeley married Blanche Farley and has three children, Clara, William H. and Emery. Freeman

Blakeley married Pearl Houck and has one child, a daughter, Catherine. Effie Blakeley married Jack Haver and has one child, a son, Roy. Verne Blakeley married Pansy Weidener and has two children, Mary and Bernice. Charles Blakeley married Juanita Sullivan and Minnie Blakeley married T. L. Becker and has two children, Eileen and Helen. The Blakeleys have a pleasant home and have ever taken a helpful part in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

VERNON ELMER BAHR, a veteran of the World War with an overseas record and with a previous record of four years in the United States navy, a member of the locally famous Elks band at Wapakoneta and a skilled mechanic and molder, employed in the plant of the Wapakoneta Hollow Ware Company, one of the well known young men in that city, was born at Columbus, Ind., February 27, 1891, and is a son of Joseph and Emma (Ingle) Bahr, who are now making their home at Wapakoneta, pleasantly situated at the corner of Benton and Logan streets. Joseph Bahr is a native "Buckeye," born on a farm in the vicinity of the village of Anna, in the neighboring county of Shelby, in 1858, and was reared there, early becoming trained as a blacksmith. Upon acquiring his trade he opened a blacksmith shop at Fishers, Ind., and not long afterward was married there. After his marriage he located at Columbus, Ind., and after some years of residence there moved to Kokomo, where he resided for eleven years, at the end of which time he went to Kentucky and was for some time engaged as a smith in the coal mines there. He then returned to Indiana and became engaged in a motor plant at Vincennes, presently returning to Kokomo, where for five years he was employed in the plant of the Apperson Motor Company. He then returned to Ohio and opened a blacksmith shop at Buckland, this county, where he remained for six years, at the end of which time he moved to Wapakoneta, where he is now living, proprietor of a blacksmith shop in the western suburb of Moulton. He and his wife are members of the Evangelical Lutheran church. Vernon E. Bahr was but a lad when his parents moved from Columbus to Kokomo and his schooling was completed in the schools of the latter city. Upon leaving school he joined the United States navy and spent four years in naval service, after which he returned to Kokomo and was for two years thereafter employed in the Apperson motor car plant. When his parents moved to Buckland he accompanied them and became employed on the L. E. & W. railroad. Not long after the family moved to Wapakoneta this country took a hand in the World war and he presently entered military service, reporting for duty at Camp Sherman (Chillicothe), where he was assigned to service in the 329th Heavy Field Artillery of the 32d Division and with this command went overseas. Mr. Bahr had a year of overseas service with the American Expeditionary

Force, this including participation in the campaigns on the Meuse and in the Argonne and three months with the Army of Occupation in Germany. He returned to this country with his command in May, 1919, and was honorably discharged with the rank of musician of the second class. Mr. Bahr acquired his skill as a band musician years ago and is one of the valued members of the Wapakoneta Elks band. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Bahr returned to Wapakoneta and to the bride whom he left behind when he sailed overseas, and has since resided there, he and his family being pleasantly situated at 603 South Court street. It was on December 26, 1917, just prior to his departure for the front, that Vernon E. Bahr was united in marriage to Mildred Wentz, daughter of John and Flora (Lucas) Wentz, of Duchouquet township, this county, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Vivien. Mr. Bahr is a member of the local post of the American Legion at Wapakoneta and takes an interested part in the activities of that patriotic body. Since his return from the army he has been employed as a molder in the plant of the Wapakoneta Hollow Ware Company.

CHRIS W. ALTHOFF, a well known and substantial retired farmer now making his home in New Bremen, where he has resided for the past seven or eight years, is a native son of Auglaize county and is a member of one of the pioneer families here. Mr. Althoff was born in German township on February 12, 1855, and is a son of George and Anna (Kreimer) Althoff, natives of Germany, who came to this country shortly after their marriage and settled in the German settlement that had been effected in and about New Bremen, this county. That was about the time work on the canal was begun, and for some time after his arrival here George Althoff worked on the construction of that waterway, thus acquiring a start toward the purchase of a farm in this county, for he had come to this country with the intention of becoming an agriculturist. He bought a tract of forty-seven acres of uncleared and undrained land in the western half of section 6 of German township, along the border of Mercer county, and there established his home and proceeded to develop his place, afterward adding to his holdings until he became the owner of an excellent farm of 177 acres, a part of which was located over the line in Mercer county. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, six of whom grew to maturity, those besides the subject of this sketch being John, Herman, Henry, Catherine and Anna. Reared on the home farm in German township, Chris D. Althoff received his schooling in the somewhat primitive school that was maintained in that neighborhood in the days of his boyhood and worked with his father on the farm until the latter's death. A few years later he married and then bought a farm of eighty acres down in the neighboring

county of Shelby, where he established his home and where he continued actively and successfully engaged in farming until his retirement from the farm in 1915 and removal to New Bremen, where he has since resided and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Althoff is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to political affairs, though he has not been a seeker after public office. He and his wife are members of St. Peter's Evangelical church at New Bremen and take an interested part in church affairs. Mr. Althoff has been twice married. By his union with Anna Kuenning, his first wife, he had five children, three of whom—George, Walter and Cecelia—are living. By his marriage to Emma May, his present wife, he has four children, Otto, Alvin, Malinda and Leona. All of these children are married. George Althoff married Emma Eversman and has one child, a daughter, Irma. Walter Althoff married Lorma Poppe and has one child, Mary. Cecelia Althoff married Emil Schweede and has one child, Edith. Otto Althoff married Alma Lehrmann and has one child, Helen. Alvin Althoff married Mabel Regnas and has one child, Dora Anna. Malinda Althoff married Louis Howe and has four children, Lola, Frederick, Marie and Mildred, and Leona Althoff married Edward Eckhart. Mr. Althoff thus has nine grandchildren in whom he takes much delight.

DR. HENRY E. FLEDDERJOHANN, who has been engaged in the practice of medicine at New Knoxville for the past thirty-five years and is thus one of the oldest and best known physicians in this county, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has lived in this county all his life. Doctor Fledderjohann was born on a farm west of New Knoxville, in Washington township, November 12, 1855, and is a son of Herman Henry and Catherine (Engle) Fledderjohann, both members of pioneer families in this county, and concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume. The late Herman Henry Fledderjohann, formerly and for many years one of the men of affairs of Auglaize county, was a native of Germany, born at Ladbergen, in Prussia, January 16, 1816, and was not yet twenty years of age when in 1835 he came to this country with his parents, Henry Fledderjohann and wife, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and settling in what in the next year came to be organized as Washington township, a part of Allen county, that having been thirteen years prior to the erection of Auglaize county. In the year of his arrival here, Henry Fledderjohann entered a tract of land from the Government in section 30, township 6 south, range 5 east (afterward Washington township), and there established his home, thus becoming one of the real pioneers of that part of what in 1848 came to be organized as Auglaize county. This tract was just a mile west of where in

DR. HENRY E. FLEDDERJOHANN

the next year (1836) the town site of New Knoxville was laid out at the site of the pioneer mill there. The Fledderjohann entry site on the west edge of Washington township was where the Pilger-Ruhe cemetery later came to be established. On that place the pioneer Henry Fledderjohann and his wife spent their last days, both dying during the time of the dreadful cholera epidemic which swept over this section in 1849. It was just about the time the Fledderjohanns came here that work on the Miami & Erie canal was begun, and Herman Henry Fledderjohann (better known as Henry), then twenty years of age, began working on the construction of that big engineering undertaking. He had learned the trade of carpenter in his native Prussia, and his ability along that line quickly raised him to a position of foreman of lock construction, in which capacity he superintended the construction of the locks in the canal here along the "divide," one of the most difficult bits of engineering in the whole course of the canal. After his father's death he came into possession of the home acres and also bought other timber lands in the county, thus becoming a considerable landowner, though farming was not his chief vocation. Following the completion of the canal, he built a saw mill at Lock 6, in section 26 of St. Marys township, about three miles south of St. Marys, and for forty years was engaged in the operation of that mill, finding a profitable outlet for his lumber in the canal traffic. He also had a hand in other enterprises and came to be recognized as one of the substantial and energetic men in the county, these activities continuing until his retirement, when advancing years warned him that he had done his part in community development. He lived to be past eighty-eight years of age, his death occurring at his home at Lock 6 on July 25, 1904. Herman Henry Fledderjohann was twice married and was the father of twelve children, all of whom save five—Frederick W., August H., Caroline M., Ernest F. and Anna M.—are living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mina and Louise, and four brothers, Herman H., Benjamin A., George F. and Dr. Ferdinand F. Fledderjohann. Dr. Henry E. Fledderjohann was but a lad when his father established his home at Lock 6, and his public schooling was received in the school in that neighborhood and in the high school at New Bremen. Upon leaving high school he secured a license to teach, and for two winters was engaged in teaching in the district schools of this county. In the meantime he had been giving his attention to preliminary studies in medicine and after awhile entered the medical college of the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, from which he was graduated in 1886. Upon receiving his degree, Doctor Fledderjohann returned home and opened an office for the practice of medicine at St. Marys. Eighteen months later he moved to New Knoxville, opened an office there and has ever since been engaged in practice

at that place, one of the veterans of his profession in this county. Dr. Henry E. Fledderjohann was united in marriage to Emma M. Snethkamp, daughter of H. William Snethkamp, and to this union have been born five children, two of whom—Leona, the first born, and Felix A., the fourth in order of birth—are deceased, the others being Frances, Walter R. and Zella H., the latter of whom married Ferdinand F. Eversman and has one child, a daughter, Jeanette Ann. Frances Fledderjohann, the elder daughter, married the Rev. Orin P. Schroerluke and has two children, Lois and Henry P. The Fledderjohanns are members of the German Reformed church, and Doctor Fledderjohann was secretary of the congregation of this church at New Knoxville for one term. In his political views the Doctor reserves his right to vote independently of party ties.

H. J. POLLITT, foreman of the carding and spinning department of the St. Marys woolen mills, is one of the real veterans in the woolen mill industry, having been engaged in that line since the days of his boyhood, a period of more than a half century, and is thus conversant with all details of the industry. Mr. Pollitt was born at Rochester, N. Y., November 6, 1849, and is a son of W. H. Pollitt, also a native New Yorker, of English descent, who had grown up in the woolen mill industry in the East and at that time was superintendent of a woolen mill at Rochester. It was after he had located at Rochester that he married Hannah Griffith, of that place. She died in 1858, leaving four children, two sons and two daughters, the subject of this sketch at that time being less than ten years of age. W. H. Pollitt later bought a woolen mill at Sardinia, N. Y., and was there engaged in business for years. He lived to a ripe old age, his death occurring in 1901. H. J. Pollitt was but a lad when his father became engaged in business at Sardinia and he completed his schooling in the schools of that city. He early became trained to the details of the woolen mill industry in his father's mill and remained with his father in this connection for fifteen years, at the end of which time he accepted the position of superintendent of the woolen mill at New Richmond, down on the river in Clermont county, this state, and since then, with the exception of a few years spent in woolen mills in Pennsylvania, he has been connected with this industry in Ohio. Mr. Pollitt remained at New Richmond two years and then became the superintendent of the mill at Caldwell, several years later going to Dresden, where he was superintendent of the mill for ten years, at the end of which time he accepted an offer to take charge of the woolen mill at Reynoldsville, Pa., where he stayed until 1914, when he went to Delaware and was there until 1916, he accepted the position of foreman of the carding and spinning department of the big woolen mill at St. Marys and has since been a resident of

that city. Mr. Pollitt has been twice married. In 1868 he was united in marriage to Murilla Goodrich, of Sardinia, N. Y., who died during the time of their residence at Dresden, in Muskingum county, this state. In 1904, while living at Reynoldsville, Pa., Mr. Pollitt married Mrs. Esther McKee, a widow of that place, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at 330 East Columbia street at St. Marys. They are members of the Presbyterian church and are Democrats. Mr. Pollitt has given considerable attention to civic affairs and during the time of his residence at Dresden served for some time there as a member of the city council. He also served for four years as post-master at Antioch, this state. He is a member of the order of Knights of Pythias, having become affiliated with that order during his residence at Dresden.

LEWIS SEIBERT, one of Salem township's well known and progressive farmers and landowners, living just west of the canal in the northern part of that township, on rural mail route No. 4 out of Spencerville, school director in his district and in other ways useful and influential in the affairs of that community, was born in Salem township and has resided there all his life, a practical farmer since the days of his young manhood. Mr. Seibert was born on a farm in the southern part of the township on March 5, 1866, and is a son of Peter and Anna Mary (Uhl) Seibert, who had settled there nearly sixty years ago. The late Peter Seibert was born in Crawford county, Ohio, a member of one of the pioneer families of that county, and was there married. Not long after his marriage, in 1864, he came to Auglaize county and bought a tract of eighty acres in the southern part of Salem township, the east half of the southeast quarter of section 3 of that township, right on the line between Salem and Noble townships, and on that place established his home. He was a good farmer, kept abreast of the many advances that just about that time were beginning to revolutionize farm life and methods, and as his affairs prospered added to his land holdings until he became the owner of 272 acres in Salem township and was accounted one of the well-to-do men of that part of the county. On that place he spent the remainder of his life and at his passing left a good memory. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Caroline, and four brothers, John, Daniel, Samuel and William, the two latter of whom are living on the old home place. The deceased children of this family were Martha, Elizabeth, Charles, James and Anna. Reared on the home farm in Salem township, Lewis Seibert received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and until his marriage at the age of twenty-five years remained on the home farm, helpful in the labors of developing the same. After his marriage he rented a farm of 120

acres from his father-in-law (the Ritzhaupt farm west of the canal in section 23 of Salem township, just south of Deep Cut in the northern part of the township), the place on which he is now living, and has ever since resided there, his wife having inherited the place following the death of her father, Jacob Ritzhaupt, who for years was one of the best known men in the Deep Cut neighborhood. Mr. Seibert also owns thirty-two and one-half acres of the old Seibert farm in the southern part of the township and has besides another "forty" in this township. He carries on his farming operations in accordance with modern methods and has done well. It was on August 11, 1891, that Lewis Seibert was united in marriage to Anna Susanna Ritzhaupt, who also was born in Salem township, daughter of Jacob and Hannah Ritzhaupt, who were among the early settlers in the Deep Cut neighborhood, and of the children born to this union nine are still living, Peter J., Hannah, Elizabeth Ann, William L., John A., Daniel, Martha, Harvey and Harley. The mother of these children died on April 30, 1922. Peter J. Seibert, the eldest of the children of this family, married Margaret Hance and has three children, Pauline, Charles and Howard. Elizabeth A. Seibert, the second child in the family, is the wife of Leo Briggs. Mr. Seibert is a member of the United Brethren church, as was his wife, and the children were reared in the faith of that communion. The Seiberts are Democrats and Mr. Seibert has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, and is at present serving as the director of the school in his district.

OSCAR R. VORHEES, chief of the Wapakoneta fire department and long regarded as one of the most expert fire fighters in northwestern Ohio, was born at Wapakoneta and has resided there practically all his life. Mr. Vorhees was born on April 17, 1874, and is a son of John W. and Mary A. (Richardson) Vorhees, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a daughter of Byrd and Nancy (Smiles) Richardson, who were among the earliest settlers of what is now the St. Johns neighborhood. Byrd Richardson was a native of the Old Dominion, born in Montgomery county, Virginia, in 1809. He was reared there and after his marriage to Nancy Smiles came to Ohio. That was in 1830 and for a year he made his home in Shelby county, but in the next year when he found that the Indians were going to be removed from their reservation lands here he came up into what is now Auglaize county (then Allen) and settled in the old Blackhoof Indian village, which afterward came to be known as St. Johns. When the land there was opened to settlement in the next year he entered a tract in section 5, Clay township, the tract on which old Chief Blackhoof spent his last days and including the picturesque knoll on which the old chief was buried, and there established his

home. Not long afterward he secured what he regarded as a more advantageous tract in the eastern half of section 20 in Wayne township, southeast of the present village of Waynesfield, and on this latter tract spent his last days, his death occurring in 1871. His widow survived him for some years. They were the parents of seven children, one son and six daughters. The late John W. Vorhees was a Hoosier by birth, born on a farm in the vicinity of the village of Berne, in Adams county, Indiana, and was there reared to the life of a farmer. When twenty-six years of age he married Mary A. Richardson and established his home on a farm he had bought in Mercer county, this state, where he lived until 1873 when he sold the farm and moved to Wapakoneta and there became engaged in a general teaming and transfer business and so continued until his retirement in 1902 and return to Berne, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there in 1910. His wife had preceded him to the grave about a year, her death having occurred in 1909. They were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith. There were seven of these children, all of whom are living save one son and one daughter. Oscar R. Vorhees was reared at Wapakoneta and received his schooling in the local schools, these studies, however, not having been pursued beyond the eighth grade. Upon leaving school he entered upon an apprenticeship as a carriage painter in the old Meyer & Anderson carriage shop, which then occupied the site now occupied by the Brown Theater building, and was thus engaged until 1894, when he went to work in the woodworking plant of the M. Brown company and was thus occupied until he went to Indianapolis in 1898 and began to work for the Blair, Baker & Walters company in the stockyards in that city. This form of employment did not long appeal to him and in the next year he returned to Wapakoneta, where he ever since has resided. Upon his return to Wapakoneta Mr. Vorhees resumed his vocation as a painter, with special attention to interior decoration, and was thus occupied until his appointment in 1912 to the position of chief of the Wapakoneta fire department, a position which he ever since has occupied and in which he long ago demonstrated his fitness and efficiency. Chief Vorhees has been interested in the work of the local fire department ever since the days of his boyhood, when he became attached to the old volunteer fire department, whose equipment at that time consisted of a hand-drawn steamer and a hook and ladder truck. This division was not supplied with horses until 1895. Upon his return to Wapakoneta Mr. Vorhees renewed his interest in the fire department and continued to display such an active and intelligent interest in the local problems concerning public safety that in 1912, under the administration of Charles F. Herbst (Jr.) as

director of public safety, he was appointed chief, and since that time he has never missed a day "on the job." Following the Purvis drug store fire in 1918 Chief Vorhees was able to arouse sufficient local interest to secure a motorized equipment for the fire department and by his careful study of local problems of prevention has reduced fire losses at Wapakoneta to the minimum, the local Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Club assuring their assistance along this line. Chief Vorhees is a member of the Ohio Fire Chiefs' Association and of the United States Association of Fire Chiefs. In his political views he is a Democrat and in his fraternal relations is affiliated with the local Swabian society and with the local lodges of the Red Men and the Fraternal Order of Eagles. In 1899 Oscar R. Vorhees was united in marriage to Bessie Hunnaman, daughter of Edward and Clara (Gibbs) Hunnaman, long residents of Wapakoneta, now residing on Ohio street, and to this union twelve children have been born, nine sons and three daughters, all of whom are living save one. Mr. Vorhees and his family have a pleasant home at 707 South Ohio street.

IRVIN DAMMEYER, a veteran of the World war and until quite recently operator of the White Mountain Creamery Company's big dairy farm at New Bremen, now looking after the affairs of his father's farm over in Mercer county, one of the most energetic and up-to-date young farmers in this section, was born in Mercer county on May 10, 1895, and is a son of Gus and Christina (Rump) Dammeyer, the latter of whom was born in Auglaize county, a member of one of the old families here. Gus Dammeyer, a substantial landowner of Mercer county and of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work, is a son of H. F. and Auguste (Thieman) Dammeyer, of whom further mention is made elsewhere, H. F. Dammeyer, now living retired at New Bremen, being a son of Henry and Margaret Dammeyer, who were among the early settlers in the New Bremen neighborhood. To Gus Dammeyer and wife four children have been born, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Alma, and two brothers, Wilbert and Rolla Dammeyer. Reared on the home farm in Mercer county, Irvin Dammeyer received his early schooling in the schools in the neighborhood of his home and then took a course in agriculture at Ohio State University, after which, in 1914, he became connected with the operations of the White Mountain creamery farm at New Bremen, being given technical charge of the details of operation, and was thus connected when this country took a hand in the World War. On July 22, 1918, he entered the service of the army and was attached to the 84th Division and later assigned to the 91st Division. He served for six months overseas and upon the completion of his military service returned to New Bremen and re-

sumed his position as operator of the White Mountain creamery farm, a position he continued to occupy until in the fall of 1922, when he took charge of his father's farm of eighty acres in Mercer county, with the expectation of applying to that place the same effective and up-to-date methods which he had long been demonstrating in connection with his operation of the 160-acre creamery farm. Irvin Dammeyer married Verona Doenges, daughter of John and Cora Doenges, and to this union two children have been born, Frederick and Julia. Mr. and Mrs. Dammeyer are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and take a proper interest in the affairs of that congregation as well as in the general social activities of the community. Mr. Dammeyer is a member of the local post of the American Legion at New Bremen and takes an active interest in promoting the affairs of that patriotic body. In his political views he is a Republican, with "independent" leanings.

GEORGE W. PRICHARD, superintendent of the weave rooms of the plant of the St. Marys woolen mills, "grew up" in a woolen mill and for more than forty-five years has been devoted to that form of enterprise, one of the real veterans in the woolen mill business. For more than a quarter of a century he has been connected with the operations of the woolen mill at St. Marys and there are few men identified with the industrial activities of that city who have a wider acquaintance thereabout than he. Mr. Prichard was born at Olney, Ill., July 6, 1869, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (McCormack) Prichard, both of whom were members of pioneer families in Indiana. George Prichard was born in the vicinity of Indianapolis, in Marion county, Indiana, and was early trained as a cabinet maker. After his marriage he established his home at Olney, Ill., and there died in 1870, his son (the subject of this sketch) being then but eight months of age. George W. Prichard's youth was spent at Olney, where he received his schooling and where at the age of seven he began working vacations in the woolen mill. When seventeen years of age he began working in a woolen mill at Newton, Ill., and a year later went to Fairfield, where for several years he was employed in a mill. He then took a position in a mill at Knoxville, Tenn., but eleven months later was attracted to a better position offered him in a mill at Harrisville, N. H., and he moved to the latter city. In the meantime each successive step in his employment had been advancing him in a knowledge of his craft and at Harrisville he further increased his efficiency, becoming a master of weaving processes, so that when, in December, 1895, the offer came to him to take the position of "weave boss" in the great plant of the St. Marys woolen mill he was in a position to assume charge and carry on the work in accordance with the best methods of that time. That was twenty-seven years ago and Mr. Prichard has all this time maintained his

position in the mill, keeping fully abreast of changing and more efficient methods in weaving craftmanship, and has thus been a no small factor in the continuing success of that mill, the products of which are in wide demand, St. Marys blankets in particular having a reputation which makes their name almost a household word throughout the country and which enter even into export trade. In 1897, a year or two after becoming located at St. Marys, George W. Prichard was united in marriage to Oral Nagel, who was born at St. Marys, daughter of John and Mary Nagel, and to this union four children have been born, one son, Carl, and three daughters, Lillian, Nellie and Mary, the latter of whom are at home with their parents. Carl Prichard in 1919 married Weathy Sigman, of Detroit, and i- now living in that city. The Prichards have a pleasant home at 118 Defiance street, St. Marys. Mr. Prichard is a Republican and in his fraternal relations is affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Redmen.

FRED J. ZIEGENFELDER, manager of the extensive plant of the Deisel-Weimer Company, manufacturers of cigars, at Minster, and recognized as one of the alert and progressive young business men of that town, was born at Wapakoneta on December 1, 1890, and is a son of Casper and Mary (Lear) Ziegenfelder, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here. Casper Ziegenfelder is well known as a moving contractor. To him and his wife eleven children were born, eight of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Mollie, Catherine, Lulu and Helen, and three brothers, Anthony, Herman and Charles Ziegenfelder. Reared at Wapakoneta, Fred J. Ziegenfelder received his schooling in the schools of that city and early became employed at the brick yard there, later entering upon an apprenticeship as a cigar maker. He began as a "stripper" in the factory and worked up until he had acquired an acquaintance with all details of the trade. In 1911 he was transferred to the Deisel-Weimer factory at Toledo, where he was given a foremanship and where he remained until in 1917, when the Deisel-Weimer people established their branch plant at Minster, and he was placed in managerial charge of the plant, a position he ever since has occupied, and in the exercise of which he has done much to extend the operations of the concern at that place. When Mr. Ziegenfelder took charge of the cigar factory at Minster there were but twenty-three persons employed in the plant. Efficient methods and managerial alertness have so largely increased the capacity of the plant since then that now there are one hundred persons employed, and there is a promise of early further extension. Mr. Ziegenfelder is one of the active members of the Minster Commercial Club, and since taking up his residence at that place has made a distinct place for himself in the community. He is a Demo-

FRED J. ZIEGENFELDER

SILAS JACOBS AND FAMILY

crat, is a member of the Catholic church, and is affiliated with the Knights of St. John. Fred J. Ziegenfelder married Laura Anderson, daughter of Isaac and Alice Anderson, and to this union two children have been born, Paul and Dorothy. The Ziegenfelders have a pleasant home at Minster.

SILAS JACOBS, a veteran of the Civil war, formerly and for years one of the trustees of Salem township and one of the best known and most substantial farmers and landowners of that township, who died at his farm home there in 1918, had done much toward the development of the community of which he long had been a member and it is but proper that here there should be paid some modest tribute to the good memory he left at his passing. Mr. Jacobs was born in Marion county, Ohio, January 1, 1845, and was a son of George and Susanna (Ruply) Jacobs, who later became residents of Auglaize county, where their last days were spent. George Jacobs was a native of Germany. When twenty years of age he came to the United States and located in Marion county, this state, where he presently married and established his home. He remained there until about 1870 when he came with his family to Auglaize county and bought the west half of the northwest quarter of section 36 of Salem township, just at the south edge of the village of Kossuth, and there established his home, his son Silas, the subject of this memorial sketch, at the same time buying the east half of that same quarter, the canal being the east boundary of his farm. On that place George Jacobs and his wife spent the remainder of their lives and their son Silas came into possession of their tract, which adjoined his on the west. The late Silas Jacobs was sixteen years of age when the Civil war broke out. He was a strong, active lad and easily secured a waiver of the age limit for service and in November, 1861, was accepted as a member of Company M, 3d regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served until his honorable discharge in January, 1865. He was twenty-five years of age when he came to Auglaize county in 1870. Two years prior to that time he had married, in Marion county, and upon his arrival here he established his home on his "eighty" just south of Kossuth, along the canal, and there he spent the remainder of his life, one of the useful and influential men of that community, his death occurring in 1918. Mr. Jacobs was a good farmer and as his affairs prospered gradually added to his land holdings until he became the owner of about 500 acres of land in the Kossuth neighborhood and was accounted one of the most substantial farmers thereabout. He was a Democrat, long one of the leaders of that party in Salem township, and had served his township as one of its trustees and for twenty years had served as township clerk. It was on May 28, 1868, in Marion county, two years before he became a citizen of Auglaize county, that Silas Jacobs was united in marriage to Lucinda

Decker, who also was born in Marion county, daughter of John and Rachel (Dawson) Decker, and who survives him. Of the children born to that union, all are living save three, Harvey, Lafayette and Ira, the others being Clara, Fannie, Nettie, Amy, Inez and Minerva, all of whom are married, the combined issue of these several unions giving Mrs. Jacobs no fewer than twenty-three grandchildren, in all of whom she takes much pride and delight. Clara Jacobs married Jacob Leffel and has two children, Clarence and Lillie. Fannie Jacobs married John Whetstone and has nine children, Harry, Roy, Verne, Vilice, Clarence, Mabel, Inez, Carrie and Fred. Nettie Jacobs married Louis Reed and has five children, Gladys, Virgil, Orloe, Dorothy and Vira. Amy Jacobs married Ralph I. Decker. Inez Jacobs married Frank Hayes and has two children, Jessieline and Ruth, and Minerva Jacobs married William Ragen and has five children, Harold, Ralph, Basil, Art and Roy. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Jacobs has continued to make her home at the old home place just south of Kossuth, rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, and is very pleasantly situated there.

CHARLES A. HEINRICH, a member of the city council at St. Marys and former manager of the shipping department of the great spoke and wheel works (Crane & MacMahon Company, Inc.) at that place, now paymaster of the same, a concern with which he has been connected for nearly forty years, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life, for years one of the best known figures in the varied industrial life of the county. Mr. Heinrich was born at Wapakoneta on August 10, 1863, and is a son of William and Catherine (Herbst) Heinrich, the latter of whom was a native of Pennsylvania who had come to this county with her parents in the days of her girlhood. The late William Heinrich, who for many years enjoyed perhaps as wide an acquaintance as any man in Auglaize county, formerly and for forty years proprietor of the old Henry House at Wapakoneta, was a native of Germany, born at Nau Braunsfels, in Rheinish Prussia, August 2, 1830, and was eighteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents and three sisters following the unsuccessful revolution of 1848, the sailing vessel on which they made the voyage requiring thirty-four days to make the trip. The family proceeded at once from New York on out into Ohio, George Heinrich (the father) having previously had good word of conditions in this part of Ohio, and settled in Auglaize county, where in 1851 George Heinrich made entry to a tract of eighty acres of land in section 19 of Noble township and on that farm established his home, thus becoming one of the pioneers of that part of the county, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, useful members of that community. William Heinrich was an able assistant to his father in the labors of developing the farm in the

then wilderness and he remained at home until about six months after his marriage to Catherine Herbst, when he moved to Wapakoneta, the county seat, and became proprietor of the Henry House, a famous hostelry of the period, located on Willipie street, and for forty years continued thus in business at that place, also for years actively engaged in the insurance business. He and his wife were the parents of six children, four of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Catherine, and two brothers, John G. and William C. Heinrich, of Wapakoneta. Reared at Wapakoneta, Charles A. Heinrich received his schooling in the public schools of that city, completing the course under the preceptorship of Prof. Charles W. Williamson, and in 1884 became employed in the manufacturing plant of the Wapakoneta Bending Company, manufacturers of spokes, wheels and rims. Three years later he was made bookkeeper for this concern and was thus connected at that place for five years, at the end of which time the company bought the plant of the old American Wheel Company at St. Marys and moved the machinery from the Wapakoneta plant to the plant at St. Marys, thus merging the two and operating under the name of the St. Marys Spoke and Rim Works. This plant at that time was located at the site now covered by the St. Marys ball park and was utilized until the growth and development of the concern became such as to require new and more extensive quarters, when the new plant was erected at the present site of the wheel works in East St. Marys, a very completely equipped plant which manufactures wood rims and wheels of all descriptions and which is reputed to be the largest manufacturing plant of its kind in the world. Upon moving with the plant to St. Marys, Mr. Heinrich continued as bookkeeper for the concern for about two years and then was made manager of the shipping department, a position he occupied for thirty-six years and since October 1, 1922, has been engaged as paymaster for the concern. Mr. Heinrich is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, at present serving as councilman-at-large in the city council, this term of service dating from January 1, 1922. He has from the days of his boyhood been interested in music, formerly enjoyed playing in the band, and less than twenty years ago was the manager of the then more than locally famous Imperial Regimental Band of St. Marys. He is affiliated with the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Knights of Maccabees at St. Marys and the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. On October 4, 1884, Charles A. Heinrich was united in marriage to Mary Jane Kantner, who also was born and reared in this county, daughter of John G. and Mary Kantner, of Pusheta township, and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Karl

F. and Dollie C., the latter of whom completed her schooling in the St. Marys high school and is now occupying the "information" desk in the office of the wheel works. The late Karl F. Heinrich, who died on November 26, 1918, left a good memory in that community. He had married Edith Orphal and to that union were born two children, William, who died when but three days old, and Emily Jane. Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich have a very pleasant home at 722 East Spring street.

WILLIAM P. WELLINGTON, foreman of the wood turning department of the Standard Churn Company's plant at Wapakoneta and well known in industrial circles in that city, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life with the exception of a period of some years in the days of his young manhood when he was engaged working in an industrial plant at Dayton. Mr. Wellington was born on a farm in Noble township, this county, in 1864, and is a son of Horace and Marian (Haman) Wellington, the latter of whom was born in Germany and was thirteen years of age when she came to this country with her parents, the family settling in this county. Horace Wellington was born in New York state and had there been trained as a cooper. During the height of the cooperage industry at St. Marys and hereabout following the opening of the canal he came here and after his marriage settled on a tract of land along the canal in Noble township and there started a cooper shop, at the same time carrying on his farming operations. He met his death by a fall from the timbers of Lock 14 in 1886 and his widow remained on the farm until 1890, when she moved to Wapakoneta, where her last days were spent, her death occurring in 1906. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith. There were twelve of these children, of whom but three now survive. William P. Wellington was reared on the farm in Noble township, received his schooling in the local schools and was early trained by his father in the woodworking craft. For two seasons after leaving school he worked on the canal and then became engaged as a wood turner in the plant of the Standard Churn Company at Wapakoneta. Some time later he left there and went to Dayton, where for five years he was employed as a millwright in the Stumps & Burkhart plant. He then returned to Wapakoneta and resumed his place in the churn factory and has since been engaged there, this service now covering a period of thirty-one years, and he has long been foreman of the wood turning department of that plant. In 1894 William P. Wellington was united in marriage to Mrs. Annetta (Miller) Headapohl, civil widow of George Headapohl, to whom she had been married in 1888 and by whom she was the mother of one son, Arthur Headapohl, who is now proprietor of a grocery store at Lima. To Mr. and Mrs. Wellington three children

have been born, namely: Bernard, a barber, now living at Dayton; George, a pattern maker in the employ of the Superior Refrigerator Company at Wapakoneta, and Zella, who died in 1917 at the age of seventeen years. Mrs. Annetta (Miller) Wellington was born in the vicinity of Franklin, in Warren county, this state, and is a daughter of George and Amanda (Catterlin) Miller, the latter of whom was a daughter of Strawder Catterlin, of that same county. George Miller, a veteran of the Civil war now living at Wapakoneta, was born in the vicinity of Franklin in 1844 and was living there when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted his services in behalf of the Union cause in 1861 and served until the close of the war. Upon the completion of his military service he returned home and not long afterward married Amanda Catterlin. Not long after the birth of their daughter Annetta they came to Auglaize county and located on a farm in Duchouquet township, a part of the present Charles F. Herbst farm, and there they remained until 1903, when they left the farm and moved to Wapakoneta, where they are now living, having their own home on East Pearl street. Mr. and Mrs. Wellington are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are Republicans. Mr. Wellington is a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Woodmen of the World and Mrs. Wellington is affiliated with the Ladies of the Maccabees, the Daughters of Rebekah, the Pythian Sisters, the Woodmens Circle and the Woman's Relief Corps. The Wellingtons have a pleasant home at 204 East Mechanic street.

H. F. DAMMEYER, one of Auglaize county's best known octogenarians and a substantial landowner and retired farmer now living at New Bremen, where he has made his home for years, was born in that neighborhood, back in the days before there was any Auglaize county and when that section of what is now this county was attached to Mercer county. He thus has been a witness to and a participant in the development of this region since the days even before the canal was put in operation and long before the railroads came, and has many an interesting story to tell of the days when conditions hereabout were so primitive in character as hardly to be comprehensible to the present generation. "All of which I saw and part of which I was," he can say with the poet. Mr. Dammeyer was born in German township (then a part of Mercer county) on September 17, 1840, and is a son of Henry and Margaret Dammeyer, natives of the kingdom of Hanover, who had come to this country after their marriage and had come on out into Ohio and become members of the New Bremen (then Bremen) settlement. They had two children, the subject of this sketch and his sister, Sophia. Reared on the pioneer farm in German township on which he was born and which as a youth he helped to clear and improve, H. F. Dammeyer remained

there until he reached his majority and then he began to work as a boatman on the canal, continuing thus occupied for about seven years, or until his marriage, when he started farming in that township. Some years later he bought a farm of eighty acres over in Mercer county and there established his home, remaining there until he sold that place to his son Gus and for himself bought another tract of 120 acres in that county. On this latter farm he remained for about twenty years, or until his retirement from the farm in 1908 and removal to New Bremen, where he has since resided and where he is very comfortably situated in the pleasant "evening time" of his life. Mr. Dammeyer is a Republican and he and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church, the congregation of which he long served as a trustee. It was on January 24, 1867, that H. F. Dammeyer was united in marriage to Auguste Thieman, a member of one of the pioneer families of that section, and thus he and his wife celebrated their golden wedding anniversary more than six years ago. To them have been born eleven children, all of whom are living save one (Edward), the others being Julius, Gus, Theo, William, Amanda, Lafe, Otto, Adelia, Oscar and Freda, and as all of these have married and have families of their own the Dammeyer connection hereabout in the present generation is a considerable one. Julius Dammeyer married Rosenna Tontrup and has six children, Luetta, Leonard, Arnold, Norman, Paula and Richard. Luetta married Clarence Rutger and has three children, Marie, Norbert and Lucille. Gus Dammeyer married Christina Rump and has four children, Irvin, of whom further mention is made elsewhere, who married Verona Doenges and has two children, Frederick and Julia, and Alma, Wilbert and Rolla. Theo Dammeyer married Laura Huenke and has seven children, Roy, Howard, Gladys, Mabel, Herbert, Dorothy and Kermit. William Dammeyer married Ida Kamman and has two children, Leona and Orville. Amanda Dammeyer married Leo Huenke and has two children, Lola and Enola. Lafe Dammeyer married Hilda Neuman and has three children, Delilah, Paul and Margaret. Otto Dammeyer married Ida Neuman. Adelia Dammeyer married E. H. Neiter and has one child, Leota. Oscar Dammeyer married Anna Luellerman and has one child, Irene, and Freda Dammeyer married Harry Schroeder and has two children, Robert and Catherine. It thus will be noted that to H. F. Dammeyer and wife have been given twenty-seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mrs. Dammeyer was born in Germany and was but two years of age when she came to this country with her parents, Herman and Margaret Thieman, the family first locating at Cincinnati, whence a few years later they came up into this part of Ohio and established their home at New Bremen. Herman Thieman and wife had four children, those besides Mrs. Dammeyer being Frank, Chris and Gus Thieman.

WILLIAM PRESAR, a well known retired farmer of Pusheta township, now living at Wapakoneta, where he is carrying on a gardening and poultry business, was born on a farm in the west half of the northwest quarter of section 6 of Pusheta township, just southwest of the city of Wapakoneta, March 12, 1876, and is a son of Charles and Anna (Hahammer) Presar, the latter of whom was a daughter of a substantial farmer of the neighboring county of Mercer, and who is still living, now making her home at Wapakoneta, where she has resided for almost twenty years past. The late Charles Presar was born in 1835 on the farm above indicated and was a son of Charles Presar, who had entered from the government that tract in the extreme northwest corner of Pusheta township in 1833, the year following the exodus of the Indians from this region, and had there established his home on lands that had been occupied for years by the clan of old Chief Pusheta, after whom this township was given its musical and distinctive name. On that pioneer farm the younger Charles Presar grew to manhood and after his marriage began farming on his own account, buying an "eighty" on which he established his home in that same township. As his affairs prospered he gradually added to his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of 275 acres and continued farming until his retirement in 1905 and removal to Wapakoneta, where he bought a home on Pearl street and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in December, 1921, he then being eighty-six years of age. He was thirteen years of age when Auglaize county was erected in 1848 and he thus had been a witness to all the amazing development that has marked this region since that day. His widow is still making her home on Pearl street. She is a member of the German Lutheran church, as was her husband, and their children were reared in that faith. There were eleven of these children, all of whom are living save one. William Presar, who was the sixth in order of birth of these children, was reared on the home farm in Pusheta township and received his schooling in the neighborhood schools. From the days of his boyhood he was a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing the farm and after his marriage at the age of twenty-eight years continued to make his home there until 1913, when he moved to Wapakoneta, bought a four-acre tract on Dearbaugh avenue and settled down to intensive gardening and poultry raising for the market, and has done well. It was in 1904, while living on the home farm, that William Presar was united in marriage to Anna Brautigam, who was born on a neighboring farm, daughter of William and Elizabeth (Schroeder) Brautigam, the latter of whom was a member of one of the pioneer families of this county and both of whom are now deceased. The late William Brautigam, who for years was one of the best known and most substantial farmers living west of Wapa-

koneta, was a native of Germany, born at Altendorf in 1841, and had been around the world before settling in this country. When he was eighteen years of age, in 1859, he sailed from England for New Zealand and after an adventurous trip around the world returned to Germany, whence in 1864 he came to America and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating at Wapakoneta. In the next year, 1865, he married Elizabeth Schroeder and established his home on the farm west of town, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on September 13, 1913. His widow survived him for about three years, her death occurring in 1916. They were the parents of eight children, all of whom are living save two. Mr. and Mrs. Presar are members of St. Paul's German Lutheran church and are Democrats.

HENRY SCHAEFER, an honored veteran of the Civil war and one of the best known octogenarians of Auglaize county, a substantial farmer and landowner of St. Marys township, now living retired from the active labors of the farm at his pleasant home in that township, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life with the exception of a period during the days of his young manhood, when he was employed at Cincinnati. Mr. Schaefer was born on a farm in German township on June 28, 1842, that township at that time and until 1848 having been included within the confines of Mercer county, and is a son of Victor and Dorothea (Stroefer) Schaefer, both natives of Germany, and the latter of whom was but a girl of fourteen years when she came to this country with her parents, the family settling in the New Bremen neighborhood. Victor Schaefer came to this country in the days of his young manhood and proceeded on out into Ohio, becoming a member of the New Bremen settlement, and was there when work on the canal and reservoir was begun. He and an associate (Warner) took a contract for the construction of a section of the canal in this region, and with the money thus earned he bought a tract of forty acres of land in the neighborhood of New Bremen. Meantime he had married Dorothea Stroefer, and he established his home on that farm and proceeded to clear and develop the same. After getting the initial improvements on the place he sold it to advantage and then moved to Cincinnati, where he was employed in a lead factory for three or four years, at the end of which time he returned to his former home here and bought an "eighty" in St. Marys township, on the line between that township and German township, where he settled down and spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1885. His widow survived him for nearly twenty-five years, her death occurring in 1909. They were members of St. Paul's church at New Bremen, and their children were reared in that faith. There were four of these children, all sons, the subject of this sketch—the first born—having had

HENRY SCHAEFER

three brothers, Victor, Fred and Lewis Schaefer, all now deceased. Reared on the home farm, Henry Schaefer received his schooling in the somewhat primitive schools of that neighborhood, and when fifteen years of age went to Cincinnati, where he put in three years serving an apprenticeship to a locksmith. This locksmith started him in at a wage of $2 a week, and to insure his sticking on the job held back 50 cents a week until the apprenticeship was completed, increasing his pay an additional 50 cents every six months. Despite this apparently small wage, Mr. Schaefer was able to save some money during his three years at Cincinnati, and upon his return at the end of his apprenticeship was thus enabled to pay off a mortgage which had accumulated on the home "eighty." He was not attracted to the trade he had learned, and upon his return here took up farm work and was for two years engaged in working on a farm in the vicinity of Montezuma, over in the neighboring county of Mercer, and was thus engaged when at the age of twenty years, in 1862, he enlisted for service as a soldier of the Union, his term of enlistment having been for three years or the duration of the war, and went to the front as a member of Company C of the 37th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Capt. Charles Hipp (afterward major) commanding, and was with this gallant command when at the battle of Vicksburg he was seriously wounded, entailing an injury which has given him trouble to this day. Mr. Schaefer was sent to the military hospital at St. Louis to recuperate from his wound and then was sent to the hospital at Madison, Ind., where after a year of further treatment he was restored to the active list and was detailed to guard duty at Camp Morton, Indianapolis, where captured Confederate soldiers were interned, and there served until he received his discharge in July, 1865, the war then being over. Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. Schaefer returned to the home farm, and after his marriage two years later established his home there and took over the management of the place. He eventually became the owner of the "eighty," the east half of the southwest quarter of section 32 of St. Marys township, and there continued actively engaged in farming until 1917, when he turned the management of the place over to his son-in-law, Herbert Kellermeyer, and has since been living practically retired from the active labors of the farm, though continuing to keep a supervisory eye over affairs. His wife died on November 12, 1918, and his daughter, Mrs. Kellermeyer, now looks after the domestic side of the household. It was in 1867 that Henry Schaefer was united in marriage to Louise Brune, of German township, and to this union were born seven children, Herman, Mrs. Flora Blanke, Edward, Mrs. Emma Weinberg, Henry Jr., Mrs. Laura Waterman and Mrs. Martha Kellermeyer, the latter of whom has been mentioned above. Mr. Schaefer is a Republican and

has rendered public service as supervisor of St. Marys township and as pike superintendent. He is a member of Kishler post, No. 84, of the Grand Army of the Republic at St. Marys, and has for many years taken an active interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. He has for many years also been one of the working members of St. Paul's church, has served the congregation of that church as president of the board of trustees, as an elder and as a deacon, and was a member of the building committee of the congregation when the new church building and parsonage were erected. Mr. Schaefer has been a continuous witness to the development of this region since the days of the pioneers and has many interesting stories to tell of the manners and methods of living in other days.

WILLIAM FRANKLIN MILLER, who died at his home in Salem township almost nineteen years ago and whose widow is still living there, was for years one of the best known farmers and landowners of that part of Auglaize county and at his passing left a good memory. As a tribute to that memory the following bit of biography seems fitting. Mr. Miller was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Allen on August 3, 1852, and was a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Baber) Miller, the former of whom was a well known landowner and stockman in his day and generation. He owned a tract of 428 acres a little north and west of the center of Salem township, this county, the same lying in section 28 of that township and that part of section 33 north of the river, and also owned much land in Allen county, where he made his home. It thus came about that the late William Franklin Miller early became engaged in farming. After his marriage at the age of twenty-two years he established his home in Salem township and continued farming in association with his father until the latter's death, when he inherited a tract of eighty acres and thereafter gave his particular attention to the cultivation of this tract. He later bought an adjoining tract of seventy-five acres and thus had a fine farm of 155 acres, on which he made his home until the end of his life, his death occurring on January 10, 1904. Mr. Miller was a good farmer and had developed there an excellent piece of property. He was an active member of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry and for years took an interested part in the affairs of the grange. It was on March 18, 1875, that William Franklin Miller was united in marriage to Lydia Ann Strayer, who also was born in the neighboring county of Allen, daughter of Samuel and Sarah Strayer, and to this union were born twelve children, three of whom died in childhood, the survivors being Alva T., Orpha, Gladys, Olive, Harley, Walter, Roy, Elmer and Fredia. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Miller has continued to make her home on the home farm, where she and her family are very comfortably and pleasantly situated. Their home is on rural mail route No. 5 out of Spencerville.

DR. M. S. EKERMEYER, formerly and for years an earnest practicing physician at New Bremen, where he died in the spring of 1919, was long a potent influence for good in that community and at his passing left a good memory. It therefore seems but fitting that in this formal history of the county in which his humanitarian labors had so long been so usefully expended there should be carried some modest tribute to that memory. As a local newspaper fittingly said, following his death: "For who can think of the little city of New Bremen and not associate with it, Dr. Ekermeyer? He represented that type of physician that is fast becoming extinct—the country Doctor—for whom the road was never too long or too bad, or the night too dark or too cold; whose only compensation often times, was the thought of duty well performed and the gratitude of some poor soul in distress. In his medicine case there were two phials never empty, although frequently used. They were labeled Hope and Kindness and he mixed large portions of each with his drugs. How many grown-ups remember as a child the rides he gave them on his bicycle or the packages of bon bons he brought them when sick? And how many children today will miss the gifts from that spacious pocket which never failed? It is said that in life's summertime we are classed good or bad depending upon which quality has been most dominant and that a kind heart is the greatest asset in tipping the scales toward the good. Measured by such a standard the life of Dr. Ekermeyer stands mightily to the good. Peace, sweet peace to his ashes." Doctor Ekermeyer was a "Buckeye" by birth and all his life was spent in this state. He was born at Zanesville, Ohio, September 4, 1860, and was a son of Dr. William and Mary (Nolfert) Ekermeyer, both natives of Germany who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth. Dr. William Ekermeyer was but a lad when he came to the United States. His parents located at Cincinnati, where he grew to manhood. He early turned his attention to the study of medicine and in time was graduated from the Cincinnati Medical College. The remainder of his life was spent in practice, mostly in and around Cincinnati. He was an earnest worker in the Methodist Episcopal church and some years after he had become engaged in medical practice was ordained a minister of that church and thus thereafter followed the dual calling of physician and clergyman. To him and his wife were born five children, the late Dr. M. S. Ekermeyer having had three sisters, Minnie, Rebecca and Dr. Catherine Ekermeyer, and a brother, Dr. Charles W. Ekermeyer. Not long after the birth of the late Dr. M. S. Ekermeyer his parents moved from Zanesville to New Bremen and it was in the schools of this latter town that he received his first schooling, receiving impressions of place and circumstance during that period that years afterward prompted him to take

up his residence there. Upon leaving here the family returned to Cincinnati and it was there that he completed his schooling and formed his decision to follow in the footsteps of his father and become a physician. With this end in view he in good time entered the Ohio Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati and was graduated from that institution. Upon receiving his degree Doctor Ekermeyer located at Norwood, an attractive suburb of Cincinnati and was there engaged in practice until 1883, when he returned to New Bremen, which place had held its attraction for him since the days of his boyhood, and the rest of his life was spent in practice there, his death occurring at that place on May 5, 1919. The Doctor was a Republican and ever gave a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. When the office of local health commissioner was created he was appointed to that position at New Bremen and in that capacity did much to organize that department for the useful service it since has rendered. He also had rendered service as a member of the town council and in other ways took his part in public service. He was a member of the county, state and national medical societies and ever took an earnest interest in the deliberations of these bodies; was a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen, and was a member of St. Peter's Evangelical church, as is his widow, and their children have been reared in that faith. Mrs. Martha Ekermeyer, widow of the Doctor, is a daughter of Henry and Lucy (Boesche) Schmidt, and has had five children, Esther, who died in 1915, and Irene, Maude, Carl and Ernest, all of whom are at home with their mother. Ernest Ekermeyer is still in high school. Miss Maude Ekermeyer was formerly engaged as a school teacher. Carl Ekermeyer, following the traditions of the family, is preparing to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather and of his father and is now a student in the medical college at Cincinnati.

HENRY KOOP, former member of the board of county commissioners for Auglaize county, a substantial landowner of St. Marys township and formerly and for years engaged in the live stock business in this county, now living retired at his pleasant home on rural mail route No. 4 out of St. Marys, one of the best known octogenarians in the county, is a native son of this region, born in the days before there was any Auglaize county, and has lived here all his life. Mr. Koop was born on a pioneer farm two miles north of New Bremen on March 10, 1841, seven years before Auglaize county was erected, and is a son of John Frederick and Martha (Willenbrook) Koop, the latter of whom had come to this country from Germany with her parents in the days of her girlhood and had grown to womanhood at Cincinnati. John Frederick Koop also was a native of Germany, born in Hanover in 1801, where his youth was spent. Dissatisfied

with political conditions in that country following the unsuccessful revolt of 1831, he came to America and located at Cincinnati, where he worked for several years and where he married Martha Willenbrook. Not long after his marriage and hearing good word concerning the outcome of the German settlements up in this part of Ohio that were effected in 1833, he came up here and bought a tract of land on the old Wayne road in St. Marys township (at that time attached to Mercer county), two miles north of New Bremen (then known as Bremen) and there established his home. This road was then, even as now, the chief highway between Dayton and Ft. Wayne, the route covered by the stage and post lines, and much of the pioneer travel into northwestern Ohio was directed along that highway. Mr. Koop recognized the value of his farm site as a site for a tavern and he erected in addition to his home a commodious log tavern which for years served as a convenient and hospitable house of call for the stages and for all travel along that way, the old Koop tavern there in the southeast corner of section 33 of St. Marys township being maintained until long after the coming of the canal with its diversion of travel to the waterway. John Frederick Koop not only was a good tavern keeper but a good farmer and as his affairs prospered he added to his original land tract there until he became the owner of 200 acres of land in sections 33 and 34 of St. Marys township, along the south line of the township, and had one of the best farms in that part of the county. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Fred, Margaret, William, August, Theo and Cornelius. Reared on the old home farm, Henry Koop received his schooling in the little old log school house at Lock 2 (New Paris) and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing the farm. After his marriage he for some time continued to work the home farm, on a rental basis, and then bought an "eighty" of the place he now owns in St. Marys township and there established his home. He did well in his operations on that initial eighty and gradually increased his holdings until now he is the owner of 240 acres and one of the best and most attractive farm plants in that township, the beautiful shade trees and the substantial character of his farm buildings attracting the attention of all passersby. In addition to his general farming Mr. Koop also was for years engaged in the buying and selling of live stock and thus gained a wide acquaintance throughout this region. He is a Republican and has for years given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, for two years (1887-89) having served as a member of the board of county commissioners for Auglaize county. He is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen, as was his wife, who died in 1908. Mrs. Koop was Caroline Markus, a daughter of Christopher Markus, a farmer in the adjoin-

ing section 28 of St. Marys township, and to her and her husband were born five children, four of whom are living, Wilson, Fredonia, Minnie and Allen, the latter of whom married Alma Sieckie and has two children, Howard and Jean. For more than eighty years Mr. Koop has been a resident of this county. During that period amazing changes have been made in conditions hereabout. His life epitomizes the practical development of this region from an inhospitable woodland swamp to one of the fairest and most productive sections in all the proud state of Ohio, and in reviewing the part he has taken in that development he has the calm satisfaction of knowing that he has done well.

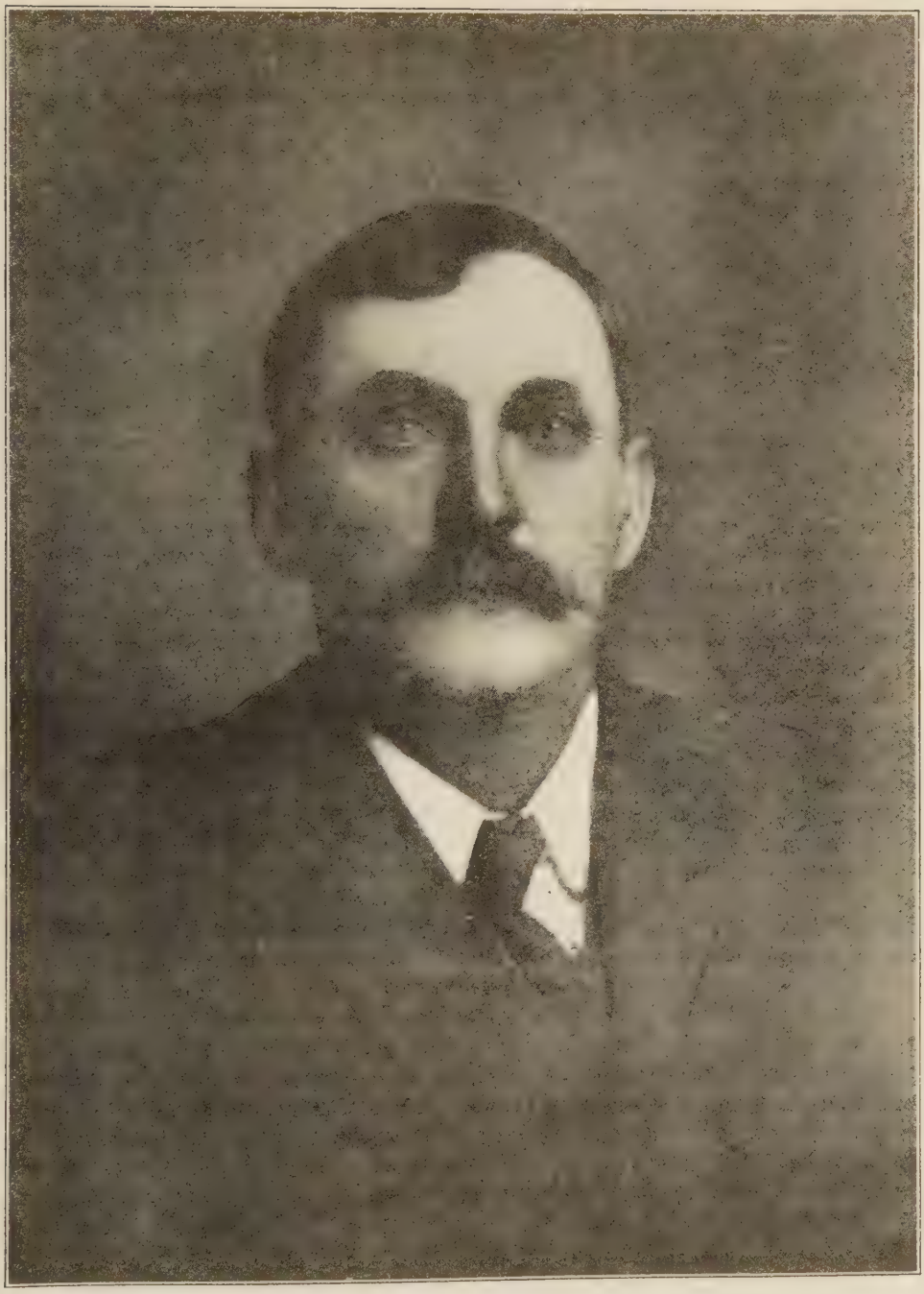
PETER HESSE, one of Salem township's well known and substantial farmers and landowners and proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 7 out of Mendon, is a European by birth but has been a resident of this country since he was sixteen years of age and of Auglaize county for more than forty-five years. Mr. Hesse was born in Germany on April 21, 1851, and is a son of Herman and Elizabeth (Scholl) Hesse, both natives of that same country, who spent all their lives there. Peter Hesse's youth was spent in his native land, where he received his schooling, and in 1867, when sixteen years of age, he came to America and stopped in New York city, where he became employed and where he remained until after his marriage when twenty-five years of age, when he and his wife came to Ohio and settled in Salem township, this county. Three years later Mr. Hesse was able to buy a tract of fifty-two acres in that township and on that place established his home and has ever since been living there, one of the best known men in that part of the county. Some years later he bought a tract of twenty-two acres adjoining his farm and thus now has a farm of seventy-four acres, which he has improved in excellent fashion and on which he and his family are very comfortably situated. In his political views Mr. Hesse is a Democrat, though before the liquor question was taken out of politics by the adoption of the Federal prohibition amendment he was a warm supporter of the cause of the Prohibition party and thus naturally rejoices at the final triumph of the principles for which that party so long and so earnestly labored. He attends the Friends church. It was in 1876, in New York, that Peter Hesse was united in marriage to Elizabeth Barton, who also is of European birth, a native of England, and to this union have been born six children, George, William, Emma, Charles, Fred and Laura, all of whom are married and have families. George Hesse, who also lives in Salem township, married Bertha Lewis and has three children, Russell, Arthur and Elmer. William Hesse, also of Salem township, married Bertha Downey and has one child, a son, Ralph. Emma Hesse married Warren Fischbaugh, of Mercer county, and has six children,

Ellis, Myrtle, Herman, Rea, Roy and Helen. Charles Hesse married Delphia Rice and has one child, a son, Harry. Fred Hesse married Alva Kinkaid and has one child, a son, Kenneth, and Laura Hesse married Joseph Kennedy and has had two children, one of whom (Glenis) is deceased, the other being Wayne. It thus will be noted that Mr. and Mrs. Hesse have thirteen grandchildren, in all of whom they take much pride and delight. Mrs. Hesse was born at Birmingham, England, a daughter of Richard and Maria (Carter) Barton and has been a resident of this country since the days of her girlhood.

FRANK MORSEY, of the firm of Frank Morsey & Son, dealers in eggs, poultry and hides at Minster, a former member of the town council and for years actively identified with the business interests of that place, was born at Minster on November 30, 1865, and is a son of Anthony and Mary Eva Morsey, both natives of Germany, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth and were here married. The Morseys had come to Ohio upon their arrival in this country and had settled in Shelby county. At Houston, in that county, Anthony Morsey became engaged as a tanner, presently moving from there to Sidney, and was there engaged in the same line until he came up into this county and located at Minster, where after awhile he bought the Dickman tannery and carried on business in that old established plant until his death. To him and his wife were born six children, of whom but three are now living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Louise, and a brother, Joseph Morsey. Reared at Minster, Frank Morsey received his schooling in the schools of that town, and as a lad began working in his father's tannery, there became thoroughly familiar with the details of that business, and so continued until the time of his father's death, when he took over the business and continued to operate the plant until 1907, when he gave up the tannery, the pressure of the competition of the great leather plants having by that time done away with the economic necessity for local tanneries, and established himself in business at Minster as a dealer in produce, with particular reference to poultry, eggs and hides, his eggs being shipped to the New York market. Mr. Morsey has developed a fine trade in his line and is doing well. In 1914 Mr. Morsey admitted his elder son, Oliver Morsey, who had "grown up" in the business, into partnership in his enterprise, and the business since then has been carried on under the firm name of Frank Morsey & Son. This firm has a well-equipped plant for carrying on its business and its operations cover a wide trade area hereabout. Mr. Morsey is a Democrat and has rendered public service as a member of the Minster town council. Frank Morsey married Anna Wieman, daughter of Ferdinand Wieman, and to this union three children

have been born, two sons, Oliver and Edmond, and a daughter, Beatrice (deceased). The Morseys are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church, and Mr. Morsey is a member of the St. Boniface Benevolent Society and of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

ALBERT HUENKE, a substantial farmer and landowner and oil man, who died at his home on the New Bremen road in St. Marys township in the fall of 1921, and whose widow is still living there, was a native son of Ohio and had lived in this state all his life. Mr. Huenke was born in the vicinity of New Bremen, in what then was Mercer county, December 14, 1845, and was a son of Henry and Louise (Stroffer) Huenke, who were among the pioneers of German township. Henry Huenke was a native of Germany, born in the kingdom of Hanover in 1814, and was a young man when he came to this country and located at Cincinnati. Not long afterward he came up into this part of the state and began work on the construction of the canal and Grand Reservoir. When the canal was finished he bought a tract of eighty acres, just west of the St. Marys-New Bremen road in the southern part of St. Marys township, and there established his home. He was a good farmer and gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of 320 acres, and on that place spent his last days, his death occurring in 1891. His widow survived him for more than fifteen years, her death occurring in 1907. They were members of St. Paul's church at New Bremen and their children were reared in that faith. There were nine of these children, five sons and four daughters, those besides the subject of this memorial sketch being Mrs. Louise Heil, of New Bremen; Emma, wife of Cornelius Koop, now deceased; Alice, who married Dr. H. J. Schmidt, of New Bremen; Anna, wife of Al Buss, now deceased; William, who lives at New Bremen; Louis, also of New Bremen, and August Huenke. Reared on the home farm, Albert Huenke received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and was early trained in the ways of practical farming. He also for some time, beginning at the age of fourteen years, was employed as a driver on the canal tow path. After his marriage he established his home on a farm of sixty acres which he had bought along the canal "feeder" and there lived until 1900, when he bought a farm of 120 acres on the New Bremen road in St. Marys township and moved onto the same, spending there the rest of his life. Upon taking possession of that place Mr. Huenke made extensive improvements on the same and it was not long until he had one of the best farm plants in that part of the county. To that place he presently added an adjoining tract of twenty-four acres and thus had an excellent farm. When the gas "boom" came on in the late '80s gas was revealed on Mr. Huenke's original tract of sixty acres and he was for some years



ALBERT HUENKE

thereafter interested in oil and gas projects, taking on a number of leases in this and Mercer counties, and was quite successful in his operations. He also was interested in the old Wooden Shoe Oil Company and on his place there still are being operated three gas wells, owned by his estate, which supply gas to certain consumers at New Bremen, including the plant of the White Mountain Creamery Company. Albert Huenke died on November 16, 1921, and at his passing left a good memory, for he had long been one of the active factors in the development of the neighborhood in which he lived. It was in 1873 that Albert Huenke was united in marriage to Minnie Jordan, who also was born in German township, this county, daughter of Christian and Dorothy (Schmidt) Huenke Jordan, and to this union were born eight children, all of whom are living save one, a daughter, Minnie, who died in June, 1922, and who had been a teacher in the Lima public schools, the others being Edward, who works in the oil fields; Albert and William, at home; Clara, wife of Edward McKee; Mrs. Laura Dammeyer, who lives on the home farm, and Bessie and Jennie, also at home. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Huenke has continued to make her home on the farm, rural mail route No. 1 out of New Bremen, where she is very comfortably situated. She is a member of St. Paul's church at New Bremen, as was her husband, and has ever taken an interested part in church work.

CLEMENS VALLO, a veteran live stock dealer at Minster, assistant manager of the plant of the Superior Cigar Box Company, former township assessor, formerly and for years engaged in mercantile pursuits there, and in other ways interested in the commercial and industrial development of the town, was born at Minster on March 17, 1872, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Gausmann) Vallo, the latter of whom also was born in Ohio, a member of one of the pioneer families of this part of the state. The late Henry Vallo, who for many years was one of the well-known business men of Minster, was born in Germany, where he was trained to the trade of butcher. As a young man he came to this country and was for a time connected with the coal mine operations at Cairo, Ill. He then came to Ohio and located at Minster, where he became engaged in the butcher business, opening a meat market there, which he conducted for many years. He also for some years was engaged in the hotel and saloon business at Minster and his last days were spent there. To him and his wife were born nine children, all of whom are living save one, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Anna, Amelia, Nettie and Julia, and three brothers, John, Louis and Harry Vallo. Reared at Minster, where he was born, Clemens Vallo received his schooling in the schools of that place and then went to Cincinnati, where in the meantime his elder brother, John, had be-

come engaged in the grocery business, and was for several years employed in his brother's store there. Upon his return to Minster he "worked around" there until the gas and oil boom broke out at Findlay, when he went up there and became employed in the plant of the hydraulic brick works at that place. Two years later he returned to Minster and was there engaged as a roofer for two years, or until his marriage, when he and his brother, John, bought a meat market there and entered into the business life of the town as a partnership, an arrangement which continued for years. It was about this time that Clemens Vallo began his career as a live stock buyer, a business in which he ever since has been engaged, and in which he has become one of the best known men hereabout, for his operations along that line have carried him all over this and adjacent counties. Some time after the brothers opened their meat market they also put in a saloon, which they carried on in connection with their other establishment for about three years, or until the elder brother sold his interest in the business to Charles Laufersweiler. Several years later Clemens Vallo sold his interest in the business and he and Joseph Drees then bought the Opera House saloon. Four or five years later Mr. Vallo bought his partner's interest in this latter place and carried on the business alone for about four years, at the end of which time he sold out and has since been giving his whole attention to the live stock business, which he had been carrying on in connection with his other affairs for years, his activities in this latter connection covering a period of twenty-five or thirty years. Mr. Vallo has other business interests in the town. He was one of the organizers of the Superior Cigar Box Company and is the assistant manager of that company's factory at Minster. He is an active member of the local Commercial Club, which he also helped to organize, and for some time served as vice president of that body. Politically he is a Democrat and has rendered public service as assessor of Jackson township and as assessor for the town of Minster. Clemens Vallo married Josephine Budde, daughter of Richard Budde, and to this union seven children have been born, Loretta, Elmer, Leona, Mary, Paul, Andrew and Julia, the three first named of whom are married. Loretta Vallo married Herbert Rulmann, son of Dr. R. A. Rulmann. Elmer Vallo married Mary Wissman and has one child, a son, William, and Leona Vallo married Alfred Freimering. In his fraternal relations Clemens Vallo is affiliated with the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta, and with the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Minster. Upon the organization of the local aerie of the Eagles at Minster he was elected the first worthy president of that body and was a member of the building committee of the organization when its present handsome club house was erected.

HENRY F. DAMMEYER, a well known retired farmer of St. Marys township, now living at New Bremen, where he has made his home since 1911, is a native son of this county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Dammeyer was born on a pioneer farm in German township on November 27, 1850, and is a son of Frederick and Mary (Finke) Dammeyer, both of whom were born in Germany but who were married in this county, where their last days were spent, well known residents of St. Marys township, where they made their home, moving from German township, about the time of the close of the Civil war. Frederick Dammeyer came to America when fifteen years of age and came on out into Ohio and located in the New Bremen settlement, where he began working on the canal which was under construction at that time. Some years later he returned to Germany, but after two years there returned to this country and resumed his place in the New Bremen settlement. After his marriage there he bought a tract of forty acres in German township and presently added to that tract an adjoining tract of ten acres and there remained until about 1865, when he sold his German township farm and moved to St. Marys township, where he bought a quarter section of land on which he established his home and spent the remainder of his life, one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. Frederick Dammeyer was thrice married. By his union with Mary Finke he had six children, of whom three are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Louise and Louis. Following the death of the mother of these children Frederick Dammeyer married Mary Koepke and had six children, of whom three are still living, Minnie, Augusta and Ida. Henry F. Dammeyer was about fifteen years of age when his father moved from German township to St. Marys township and on the home farm in this latter township he grew to manhood, a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing the place. After his marriage he began farming "on his own," for three years renting a farm, and then he bought a tract of forty-three acres in St. Marys township. On this place he established his home and continued actively engaged in farming there until his retirement from the farm in 1911 and removal to New Bremen, where he since has resided and where he and his wife are very comfortably situated. In 1920 he sold his farm and has since been giving his attention to other forms of investment. Mr. Dammeyer is a Democrat and during the time of his residence in St. Marys township served for six years as a township trustee. He also served for some time as a member of the school board and in other ways has done his part in public service. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen and he has served as an elder of that congregation and for one year as president of the official board or council. It was in 1875 that Henry F. Dammeyer was united in mar-

riage to Louise Waesch, also a member of one of the old families of this county, and to this union three children have been born, namely: August, who married Lillie Neumann and has three children, Wilfred, Alvin and Marie; Amelia, who married Lafe Haziker and has five children, Leroy, Norman, Charles, Frederick and Pauline, and Emma, who married Omar Dickman and has two children, Dorothy and Vernon. Mrs. Dammeyer was born in German township and is a daughter of Carl and Sophia (Lietz) Waesch, who were the parents of ten children, six of whom are living, those besides Mrs. Dammeyer being William, Herman, Otto, Louise, Augusta and Sophia. Carl Waesch and his wife came to this country from Germany after their marriage and settled in this county. For a time after coming here Mr. Waesch operated a rented farm and then bought a place of seventy-five acres in German township, where he established his home and spent the remainder of his life.

GEORGE CONNER, an honored veteran of the Civil war and a substantial landowner and farmer of Auglaize county, now living retired at Wapakoneta, one of the best known octogenarians in this county, was born in what is now within the confines of Auglaize county but which then was included within the confines of Allen county, and has lived here all his life save for a period of some years during the late '70s when he was trying out the newer lands in Iowa. Mr. Conner was born on a pioneer farm in Union township on April 18, 1840, eight years before the erection of Auglaize county, and is a son of William and Clarissa (Huffman) Conner, who were among the pioneers of that section. William Conner was born in New Jersey and remained in that state until he was thirty-five years of age when he came out into Ohio and settled in Warren county. Not finding things there just to his liking he came up into this part of the state a year later (in 1835) and acquired possession of a forty-acre tract in Union township of what then was Allen county, this township having been organized the year before. On that tract he put up a log cabin, established his home and started in to make a farm out of the place. There he and his wife spent the remainder of their days, helpful pioneers of that neighborhood. They had two sons, the subject of this sketch and his brother, Joshua Conner. Reared on that pioneer farm in Union township, George Conner received his schooling in the primitive school house which served the neighborhood children, and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing the farm, thus growing up a practical farmer, and was living there when the Civil war broke out. Upon the call to arms Mr. Conner enlisted his services in behalf of the Union cause and went out with the three-months men as a member of Company F of the 20th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Upon the completion of this term of service he re-enlisted

and again went to the front, this time as a sergeant of Company D of the 54th regiment of Ohio infantry, with which command he saw some pretty strenuous service, including the campaign before Vicksburg, the battle of Missionary Ridge and with Sherman's army to the sea. In the meantime, in the fall of 1861, Mr. Conner had married and upon the completion of his military service he returned home and resumed his place on the farm, half of which (twenty acres) he inherited upon the death of his father. This improved tract he presently traded for an uncleared tract of eighty acres of woodland in Duchouquet township and on this latter place established his home. He partially cleared the place, got some of it under cultivation and there resided until 1876, when he sold the place and moved to Iowa, where he bought a quarter section of land in Linn county and again settled down to make a farm. Five years later he found the opportunity to dispose of this place to advantage and returned to Auglaize county and bought a 100-acre farm in Duchouquet township and again established his home in this county. Mr. Conner remained on this latter place until he had come into his eightieth year, when (in 1919) he retired from the farm, renting it, and moved to Wapakoneta, where he since has made his home, he and his wife being very pleasantly and comfortably situated at 604 East Auglaize street. Mr. Conner has witnessed the development of this county from pioneer days and has many interesting stories to tell relating to conditions in the days of his boyhood compared with conditions today. He is a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and has for years taken an active interest in the affairs of that patriotic organization. Despite the weight of his more than eighty years he attended the national encampment of the Grand Army at Des Moines, Iowa, in September, 1922, and enjoyed the reunion very much. In his political views he maintains his right to "independence." It was on October 24, 1861, that George Conner was united in marriage to Sarah Weber, daughter of Joseph and Christina Weber, of this county, and to this union nine children were born, all of whom are living save one, these being Ida, Christina, Marie, Clarissa, Myrtle, Homer, Blanche and Pearl, all of whom are married. Ida Conner married Bartley Blank and has six children, Carl, Emma, Beatrice, Olive, Francis and Marjorie. Christina Conner married Theodore Hartune and has one child, a son, Clarence. Marie Conner married John Naylor and has one child, Pruma. Clarissa Conner married John Sawyer. Myrtle Conner married William Miller and has five children, Howard, Rita, Ida, Leonora and Evelyn. Homer Conner married Sarah Bigelow and has eight children, Marie, Mildred, George, Paul, Charles, Milo, Evelyn and Roger E. Blanche Conner is the wife of Albert Keiser, and Pearl Conner married Ernest Focht and has one child, a son, Willis.

HERMAN E. PIEL, a well known and progressive merchant of Wapakoneta and successor to the firm of Piel Bros., clothiers and dealers in men's furnishings, with which he long was connected in association with his brother, the late lamented Louis Piel, whose passing in the summer of 1922 was the occasion of sincere mourning throughout this section of Ohio, was born in Wapakoneta forty-seven years ago and is a son of H. L. and Sybilla (Zoellers) Piel, both natives of Germany, who became residents of Auglaize county many years ago and whose last days were spent here. H. L. Piel was born in 1825 and grew to manhood in his native country, becoming there an expert tailor. After his marriage he continued to make his home in that country until 1865, when, following the close of the Civil war in the American states, he came to this country with his family and proceeded on out into Ohio, through the suggestion of old family friends locating first at St. Marys, in this county. In the following March he moved over to Wapakoneta and in this latter city became engaged as a tailor in the Lauer establishment, where he remained for several years, at the end of which time he took employment in the J. H. Timmermeister establishment and was connected with this latter concern until his retirement. He and his wife spent their last days in Wapakoneta, his death occurring there in 1903 and hers in 1910. They were the parents of seven children, of whom but two now survive, the subject of this sketch and his sister, Mrs. Ida Swiebel. H. L. Piel and wife were members of St. Paul's German Lutheran church and their children were reared in that faith. Herman E. Piel's schooling was completed at Wapakoneta. Under the skilled direction of his father he was early trained as a tailor and was engaged working at that trade when in 1891 his brother Louis and Charles P. Viet established themselves in the clothing business on East Auglaize street in Wapakoneta. He transferred his connection to the establishment of this new firm and remained in that employment until in 1904 when the firm of Piel & Viet was dissolved and he and his brother Louis then formed the partnership which continued so mutually agreeable an arrangement until the death of the latter in the summer of 1922, since which time Mr. Piel has been carrying on the business alone, continuing the commercial policies which for years had caused the clothing establishment of Piel Bros. to be regarded as one of the most popular in this section of Ohio. In 1911 Herman E. Piel was united in marriage to Agnes Schlenker, daughter of George and Mary Schlenker, of Wapakoneta. Mr. and Mrs. Piel are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and he is a Freemason, having attained to both the chapter and the council in the Masonic order, and is likewise a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Woodmen of the World, and is affiliated with

the local Schwaebischer Unterstuetzungs Verein. The late Louis Piel, who at his passing left a good memory in this community, for he had many good and firm friends hereabout, was born at Wapakoneta in 1866, not long after his parents had taken up their residence in that city, and all his life was spent there. He received his schooling in the local schools and, even as his younger brother Herman, was trained by his father to be a tailor and as a "journeyman" worked at that trade until in 1891, when he and Charles P. Viet formed a partnership and became engaged in the clothing and men's furnishings business at Wapakoneta, this firm continuing until 1904, when (as above noted) that partnership was dissolved and was succeeded by the firm of Piel Bros., as has been set out, an arrangement that continued until the death of Louis Piel on August 15, 1922. Louis Piel was an energetic and enterprising business man and long had been regarded as one of the leading factors in the commercial life of his home town, while his genial and wholesome personality had gained for him a firm place in the hearts of all in the community. Though he gave his first attention to the affairs of the store, he found time for other commercial activities and was a member of the board of directors of the Auglaize National Bank and of the directorate of the Citizens Building and Loan Company of Wapakoneta. In his political affiliations he was a Democrat. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran church and was affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Schwaebischer Unterstuetzungs Verein.

ANDERSON WRIGHT, one of Salem township's well known and substantial farmers and landowners, proprietor of an excellent farm lying south of the river about a mile west of the center of the township, was born in the neighboring county of Van Wert, but has lived in Auglaize county since the days of his infancy, his father having been one of the pioneers who leveled the forests of Salem township. Mr. Wright was born on November 4, 1859, and is a son of Joseph and Sarah (Callahan) Wright, who became residents of this county more than sixty years ago, and whose last days were spent here. Joseph Wright was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and after his marriage there came to Ohio and was for a time located in Van Wert county, farming there. He later became attracted to the possibilities then opening in Auglaize county and in 1861 moved with his family to this county and settled on a farm of 105 acres which he had bought in Salem township, the tract now owned by his son Anderson, and proceeded to make a farm out of that place. As his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until he came to be the owner of 310 acres lying in sections 29 and 32 of that township. He created a good farm and a comfortable home there and on that place he and his wife

spent their last days. They were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch—the second in order of birth—having two sisters, Amanda and Alice, and a brother, John Wright. Anderson Wright was eighteen months old when his parents moved from Van Wert county to their new home in Salem township, this county, and on this latter place he grew to manhood. He received his schooling in the Barber school and from the days of his boyhood was a helpful factor in the labors of developing the farm, continuing to make his home and working the farm after he had reached manhood's estate. In the distribution of his father's estate Mr. Wright came into the old home place of 105 acres and has since made his home there, he and his family being very comfortably situated He has a good farm plant and his operations are carried on in accordance with modern methods. On October 15, 1902, Anderson Wright was united in marriage to Mildred Carroll, who was born in the neighboring county of Mercer, and to this union have been born six children, Gladys, Elfreda, Anna, Mary, William and Vienna. The Wrights have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 5 out of Spencerville. Mr. and Mrs. Wright are Democrats.

WILBUR T. COPELAND, a well-known attorney of Auglaize county, former vice president of the Auglaize National Bank of Wapakoneta, former special representative of the Federal Land Bank, former city solicitor and a former member of the board of education for Wapakoneta, and for years an active and influential figure in the general social and political affairs of this county, is a native son of Auglaize county and has resided here all his life with the exception of a period of seventeen years spent in the practice of his profession at Lima. Mr. Copeland was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of the picturesque village of St. Johns, in Clay township, May 5, 1871, and is a son of William N. and Elizabeth E. (Robinson) Copeland, both also natives of Ohio, the latter born in Champaign county on December 25, 1850, and both of whom are still living. William N. Copeland was born on a pioneer farm in Clay township on April 22, 1848, the year in which Auglaize county was erected, and is a son of Amos and Mary J. (Layton) Copeland, both members of real pioneer families in this section of the state, they having accompanied their respective parents to this region in the days when that part of what is now Auglaize county was included within the confines of Allen county. Amos Copeland was born in Greene county, Ohio, August 10, 1816, and was twenty years of age when he came up here with his parents in 1836, the family settling on a farm in section 6 of Clay township, where, until they could get up a cabin of their own, they occupied the cabin that had been the home of Du Chien, a son-in-law of the old Shawnee chief, Blackhoof, whose last days were spent on the most prominent of the

WILBUR T. COPELAND

picturesque knolls which lend so much of charm to the valley of Blackhoof creek in the St. Johns neighborhood. Amos Copeland helped to get the farm started there in the then wilderness, and on November 23, 1839, three years after his arrival here, married Mary Layton and thereafter became engaged in farming on his own account, locating in the northeast quarter of section 3 of that same township. Six years later he exchanged the place which he had improved there for a larger but improved tract in section 4, and on this latter place carried on his farming operations for a quarter of a century, in this time not only clearing and improving more than one hundred acres, but adding to his holdings 200 acres of adjoining land. In the fall of 1875 he retired from the farm and moved to St. Johns, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on July 25, 1898. To him and his wife were born nine children, of whom seven grew to maturity, and two of whom, Miller and George, served as soldiers of the Union during the Civil war, the former being killed at the battle of the Resacca. The others of these children, besides William N., were Mrs. Julia Brackney, Elza B., Mrs. Miriam Chenowith and Scott W. Copeland. William N. Copeland grew to manhood on the home farm in Clay township and during the years of his young manhood taught school during the winters. The girl whom he afterward married also taught school in that township, and in his generation their son, Wilbur, taught school in the school house in which his father had taught and also in the school house in which his mother had taught. For some time after his marriage William N. Copeland continued farming in Clay township and then moved to the farm of eighty acres which he now owns in Goshen township, and where he and his wife are now living, very pleasantly and comfortably situated. They have two children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Howard C. Coffin, wife of a merchant in the village of New Hampshire. Wilbur T. Copeland grew up to the life of the farm, but his habits of thought early led him away from the farm. Upon completing the course in the St. Johns high school he took a two years' course in the Jackson Center normal school and then for two winters was engaged in teaching, one term in Goshen township and one in Union township. Meanwhile he had been directing his studies in preparation for the practice of law, and in 1891 became a student in the law office of Layton & Stueve, at Wapakoneta, Judge Layton (then a member of Congress) and Judge Stueve at that time having been partners. For more than two years Mr. Copeland remained under this preceptorship, and then on December 7, 1893, following his examination at Columbus, was admitted to the bar. In the following April (1894) he opened an office for the practice of his profession at Lima, and two years later formed there a partnership with W. L. Rogers, this

mutually agreeable arrangement continuing thereafter for fifteen years, or until dissolved in the spring of 1911, when Mr. Copeland retired from practice at Lima and returned to Wapakoneta to assist in the organization of the Auglaize National Bank, of which he was elected vice president. For six years Mr. Copeland continued this connection with the bank, or until the Federal farm loan system was inaugurated in 1917, when he resigned his position in the bank to accept the position of Federal land appraiser under this system for this district, the first appraiser thus appointed in Ohio. Not long afterward he was appointed general counsel for the Federal Land Bank and served in that capacity until after the war in 1919, when he resumed his practice at Wapakoneta, where he also acted as the special representative of the above concern in this district until July 1, 1922, when he resigned to accept the position of manager of the Kentucky Joint Stock Land Bank, a branch of the Federal farm loan system. Mr. Copeland has made a specialty of farm loans since he was twenty-three years of age and is recognized as an authority along that line. While living at Lima he organized the Central Building and Loan Company of that city, in 1908, and served as solicitor for that concern until his return to Wapakoneta. Mr. Copeland is a Democrat and has ever taken an interested part in local civic affairs, having served as a member of the city board of education for four years (1916-19), and afterward as city solicitor under appointment by Mayor Klipfel in 1919. He is a York Rite Mason and also has taken the cryptic and capitular degrees in Freemasonry, and is likewise affiliated with the local lodges of the Benevolent and Fraternal Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Modern Woodmen of America at Wapakoneta, while he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church, in the affairs of which congregation they take an earnest and helpful part. Mrs. Copeland is president of the Home Missionary Society of the church, and Mr. Copeland is chairman of the congregation's finance committee. During the period of his residence in Lima he was for years a member of the board of directors of the local branch of the Young Men's Christian Association at that place. On April 23, 1895, Wilbur T. Copeland was united in marriage to L. Mabel Herbst, of this county, and to this union one child has been born, a son, the Rev. Don Herbst Copeland. Mrs. Copeland was born in Clay township, daughter of William and Anna (Beerline) Herbst, and her public schooling was completed at Celina, where for some time she made her home with her elder sister, Mrs. Miller, wife of Judge Miller, and prior to her marriage had for some time been engaged as a teacher in the public schools. The Rev. Don Herbst Copeland was born at Lima on January 11, 1898. He was graduated from the Wapakoneta high school in 1916, and after a course in Western Reserve University at Cleve-

land entered Ohio Northern University at Ada, from which in due time he was graduated, and then he entered the Western Theological Seminary at Chicago, and upon completing the course there was ordained to the ministry of the Episcopal church and is now serving as rector of St. Alban's Episcopal church at Manistique, Mich. During the time of America's participation in the World war he served in the Naval Reserve, in the students' camp sixty days before the signing of the armistice. On June 1, 1920, the Rev. Don Herbst Copeland was united in marriage to Irene Haman, of Wapakoneta, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Martha Marie, born on January 4, 1922.

HARRY H. NUSSMEYER, architect and general manager of the plant of the Rabe Manufacturing Company of New Bremen, was born in that city on January 22, 1890, and is a son of August and Marie (Pagels) Nussmeyer, both of whom also were born in this county, members of old families here, and the latter of whom is still living at New Bremen. The late August Nussmeyer was born on a farm in this county and grew up to the life of the farm, but as a young man became engaged in working at the carpenter trade and in time became a contracting carpenter, establishing his home at New Bremen, where he continued thus engaged the remainder of his life, his death occurring there on December 31, 1914. To him and his wife were born four children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Bertha and Louise, and a brother, Emil Nussmeyer. Harry H. Nussmeyer was reared at New Bremen and in 1908 was graduated from the high school there. Under the thoughtful direction of his father he had received considerable instruction in architectural science and upon leaving high school he entered the architectural department of Ohio State University and in 1912 was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Architecture. Thus equipped for professional service he went East and became connected with the technical department of the offices of the American Bridge Company at Pittsburgh, where he remained until 1915, when following the death of his father he returned to New Bremen and became engaged in the offices of the Rabe Manufacturing Company as draftsman and assistant manager. When this country began its participation in the World war Mr. Nussmeyer offered his technical services to the War Department and was sent to McCook Field, Dayton, where he was attached to the experimental station, doing experimental designing in the airplane wing department, and was retained there until early in 1919. Upon leaving the Government service Mr. Nussmeyer became engaged as assistant chief engineer in the offices of Schenk & Williams, architects, at Dayton, and remained there until in March, 1920, when he was called back to New Bremen to take the position of architect and general manager in the offices of his former employers,

the Rabe Manufacturing Company of that place, where he has since been engaged in this difficult technical service, which principally has to do with the elaboration of designs for fine interior woodwork and built-in fixtures for homes and offices and in which line he has come to be recognized as an expert. In 1914 Harry H. Nussmeyer was united in marriage to Hilda C. Klanke, daughter of William Klanke, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Phyllis. Mr. and Mrs. Nussmeyer are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and Mr. Nussmeyer is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at New Bremen and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. Politically, he is a Democrat.

CHARLES KLUTE, a member of the board of education of St. Marys township and one of the well known and substantial farmers of that township, manager of the old Klute farm on rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Mary's, where he makes his home, was born in Cincinnati, but has been a resident of this county since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Klute was born on December 14, 1867, and is a son of Charles and Mary (Molter) Klute, the latter of whom was born in Indiana and is still living, making her home on the home farm in St. Marys township. The late Charles Klute (Sr.) was of European birth, a native of the kingdom of Hanover, and was twelve years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family coming on out into Ohio and settling at New Bremen, in this county, where he grew to manhood. When twenty-one years of age he went to Cincinnati where he became a joiner and where he was married. For some years after his marriage he made his home at Cincinnati and then returned to New Bremen and was engaged working at his trade there for two years, at the end of which time he rented a farm in German township and began farming. Two years later he bought a farm of eighty-five acres in St. Marys township and on that place established his home, later adding to his holdings until he became the owner of an excellent farm of 122 acres, and on that place spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1912. His widow is still living on the old home place, she and her other son, Henry (a bachelor), making their home with the subject of this sketch, who since the death of his father has been in active charge of the operation of the place, the Klute brothers having been farming there since their parents moved to the place years ago. The Klute farm is well improved and is profitably operated. In 1894 the junior Charles Klute, subject of this sketch, was united in marriage to Augusta Dammeyer, who was born in St. Marys township, daughter of Frederick Dammeyer, who was a substantial farmer, owner of the northwest quarter of section 21 of that township, and to that union six children have been born, Herbert, Bertha, William, Viola, Clara and

Frederick, all of whom are living save the last named, who gave his life while serving as a soldier in the American army during the World war. Frederick Klute served as a member of the 322d Infantry, attached to the 33d Division, which participated in much active overseas service, and died at Hoboken, N. J., in April, 1919, shortly after landing in this country on his way home from France with his regiment, the war then being over. Herbert Klute also served as a soldier during the World war, a member of the 13th Field Artillery, attached to the 4th Division, which also was in overseas service. He now is at home taking part in the operations of the farm. William Klute, the other son, also is at home as are the two younger daughters, Viola and Clara. Bertha Klute, the elder daughter, married Henry Schroelich and lives at New Knoxville. The Klutes are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen. Charles Klute is a Democrat and is at present serving as a member of the board of education of St. Marys township.

FLOYD B. JACOBS, a well known and progressive young farmer and landowner of Salem township, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has resided in this county all his life. Mr. Jacobs was born on a farm in the northern part of Union township on August 13, 1890, and is a son of J. C. and Rosa (Harrod) Jacobs, both of whom also were born in that township and who are still living there. J. C. Jacobs is a son of James J. and Fannie (Coffee) Jacobs, who settled on a farm of 120 acres on Wrestle creek in section 3 of Union township in pioneer days and who became useful and influential factors in the development of that part of the county, where their last days were spent. J. C. Jacobs grew up on that place, helping to clear it and get it under cultivation and after his marriage established his home there, in due time taking over the place as an inheritance and is still farming it, long having been regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that community. To him and his wife were born two children, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Clarence Jacobs. Reared on the home farm in Union township, Floyd B. Jacobs received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in the ways of the farm. He married when in his twentieth year and for nine years thereafter continued to make his home on the home place, assisting in the operation of the same, and then (in March, 1919) bought the tract of 117 acres in Salem township on which he is now living and has ever since been engaged in farming that place. Since taking possession of this farm Mr. Jacobs has made extensive improvements and now has an excellent farm plant. He carries on his operations in accordance with modern methods, gives proper attention to the raising of live stock, and is doing well. It was on March 5, 1910, that Floyd B. Jacobs was united in marriage to Lulu

Stiles, who also was born in Union township, daughter of Harper and Catherine (Harden) Stiles, also members of pioneer families in that community, for the Stiles and the Hardens were among the early settlers of Union township, and to this union have been born five children, Rosaline C., Harlon W., Louella B., Mary Ellen and Alma R., a very interesting group of youngsters who make things lively about the Jacobs home. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys and take an interested part in the general social activities of the community in which they live. In their political views they are Democrats. Mr. Jacobs is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Kossuth and of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry at that place and takes a proper interest in the affairs of both of these fraternal organizations.

HEITMAN BROS. (Emil and Lorenz Heitman), proprietors of a general electrical supply store at New Bremen and also engaged in the heating and plumbing business there, where they have a well equipped and up-to-date establishment, are native sons of Auglaize county, born in German township, and have a wide acquaintance throughout that part of the county. Emil Heitman, the elder of the two brothers, was born on November 2, 1889, and Lorenz Heitman was born on December 28, 1893, their parents being William and Elizabeth (Brede) Heitman, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. William Heitman was born in Germany, where he remained until he was seventeen years of age, when he came to this country and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating at New Bremen, where he found employment on the canal, continuing thus employed for some years, at the end of which time he started a tannery there. After operating this tannery for some time he became engaged in farming in that neighborhood and continued a farmer the rest of his active life. He and his wife had five children, those besides the subjects of this sketch being William, Emma and Ida. Emil Heitman received his schooling in the New Bremen schools and upon completing the course there became a school teacher and for three years was thus engaged. He then entered a technical school at Nyack, N. Y., where he took a four-years course and then became a traveling salesman, a vocation he followed until his return to New Bremen in 1920, when he and his brother Lorenz became engaged in their present business, opening there a store for the sale of general electrical supplies and heating appliances, to which they added a general plumbing establishment, and have since been thus engaged, having built up a very good business in that time. Lorenz Heitman went to New Mexico after completing his school course at New Bremen and was there employed on a ranch for about eighteen months, at the end of which time he concluded that he

had had enough of that part of the country and returned to New Bremen and took employment with the White Mountain Creamery Company and presently was made night superintendent of that company's plant, a position he occupied for eight years or until 1920, when he and his brother Emil became engaged in their present business. Emil Heitman married Emily Wittich and has four children, Philip, Paul, David and Karl. He and his wife are members of the Christian church. Lorenz Heitman married Isabel Hamilton and has two children, Robert and Nina. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church.

JOHN REISELT, a well known and substantial farmer and landowner of St. Marys township and proprietor of an excellent farm and a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 4 out of New Bremen, was born in that township and has lived there all his life. Mr. Reiselt was born on March 5, 1869, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Drescher) Reiselt, both of whom were born in Germany and the latter of whom was but a child when she came to this country with her parents, the family locating at Columbus, Ohio, where she grew to womanhood and was married. The late Henry Reiselt, formerly and for years director of the Auglaize county infirmary and in his day one of the best known men in this county, was thirteen years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family settling in the vicinity of Columbus, in Franklin county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood on a farm. After his marriage to Elizabeth Drescher he came to Auglaize county and bought a tract of eighty acres in St. Marys township, where he established his home. When he bought that place but three acres surrounding the cabin had been cleared of the timber and the task of clearing thus fell upon him. He got the job done and in other ways improved the farm and in 1883 bought an adjoining tract of twenty acres, this giving him a farm of 100 acres. For twelve years (1877-89) Mr. Reiselt served as director of the Auglaize county infirmary and in that capacity did much to put that institution on a sound basis. He was a member of the St. Marys Lutheran church and for years served on the board of trustees of that congregation. Henry Reiselt died on September 10, 1906, and at his passing left a good memory. He was twice married and by his first wife (Elizabeth Drescher), who died in December, 1875, was the father of seven children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Frederick, William, Louis, Mary, Matilda and Charles. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Reiselt married Mrs. Katherine (Wittenbach) Weiss, a widow, of St. Marys, who died in 1892 without issue. John Reiselt was reared on the home farm in St. Marys township and received his schooling in the local schools. He worked on the farm in association with his father and so continued after his marriage when past thirty years of age, taking

charge of the home farm after his father's death in 1906. Three years later (in 1909) he bought the respective interests of the other heirs in this farm of 100 acres and has since continued to reside there. Since taking possession of this farm Mr. Reiselt has made numerous improvements on the place and now has an excellent farm plant and a very comfortable home, he and his family being quite pleasantly situated. It was on May 10, 1900, that John Reiselt was united in marriage to Catherine Sudeman, who also was born in St. Marys township, and to this union two children have been born, Alma, who was born on February 4, 1901, and Alfred, September 8, 1902. The Reiselts are attendants at St. Paul's church at New Bremen.

JOSEPH J. DUES, head of the Dues Machine Company of Minster, president of the Superior Cigar Box Company and of the Rabe Lumber Company of that place, former president of the Minster town council and for years one of the most active and influential factors in the commercial and industrial life of that town, having acquired for himself the unique record of having sold more threshing machines than any other man in Ohio, has been a resident of this section of the state all his life. Mr. Dues was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Mercer on March 29, 1864, and is a son of George and Anna (Vogelsang) Dues, both of whom were of European birth and whose last days were spent in Mercer county. The late George Dues was about eighteen years of age when he came to this country from Germany. He located at Cincinnati and was there employed for six or eight years, or until some little time after his marriage, when he came up into this part of the state and bought a small farm in Mercer county and there established his home. He cleared and improved that tract and gradually extended his land holdings until he had a fine farm of 120 acres, on which he continued to make his home until his retirement not long before his death. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, seven of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, and four brothers, George, Bernard, Henry and John Dues. Reared on the home farm in Mercer county, J. J. Dues received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and when thirteen years of age began to learn the carpenter's trade. When twenty years of age he secured the local agency for a first rate implement manufacturing concern and started out to sell farm implements and machinery, borrowing enough money to buy a horse and buggy with which to drive about over the countryside calling on the farmers within his territory. That was in the middle '80s, about the time certain notable improvements in the manufacture of farm implements and machinery had begun to lighten much of the old time drudgery of the pioneer farm, and Mr. Dues found himself a success from the very start.

JOSEPH J. DUES

For two years he kept on selling general farm machinery, and during that time found that his stronghold was in the selling of threshing machines. Thereafter he devoted his attention exclusively to this line, selling threshing machines wherever a prospect presented, and in 1895 established his headquarters at Minster, where he ever since has made his home. In 1909 his sales business had grown to a point that required expansion and he became engaged at Minster in a general jobbing business, establishing there a house for the sale not only of threshing machines, but clover hullers, traction engines and all kinds of heavy farm machinery. As his sons grew up—for, like all sensible men, he had married early and had got a fine family about him—they began to take an active and helpful interest in their father's business, and after awhile a small manufacturing plant was erected at Minster for the manufacture of certain implements, the father and sons carrying on under the firm name of the Dues Machine Company. In 1919 this concern started in to manufacture its distinctive specialty, a corn husker and shredder which had been invented and perfected by Mr. Dues and his sons, and the market that immediately was created for this machine soon necessitated an enlargement of the plant, which now occupies 30,000 feet of floor space and is accounted one of the live and progressive industries of Auglaize county. It is significant to recall that when Mr. Dues started in business at Minster twenty-seven years ago he started in a little 30 by 60 building, which seemed ample for the time. Though he has developed an important manufacturing interest, Mr. Dues continues his long established business of selling farm machinery and has the largest branch house devoted to the sale of threshing machines in the state. He long has had the reputation among manufacturers and dealers of having sold more threshing machines than any other man in Ohio. In addition to these interests, Mr. Dues is the president of the Superior Cigar Box Company, a busy manufacturing concern at Minster, and president of the Rabe Lumber Company, one of the leading enterprises of that town. At his machine plant he employs twenty-five or thirty men and has four traveling representatives in the field. J. J. Dues married Annie Kamper, daughter of John Kamper, and to this union six children have been born, all of whom are living save one—Oscar—who died in infancy, the others being Bernardine, John, Mayme, Fred and George, all of whom are married, the sons being actively connected with their father's business at Minster. Bernardine Dues married Bernard Kuhn and has one child, a son, Joseph J. John Dues married Catherine Brandewie and has three children, Elvira, Georgiana and Genevieve. Mayme Dues married Julius Friemering and has three children, Evelyn, Lester and Robert. Fred Dues married Florence Ripplo and has two children, Mildred and William, and

George Dues married Lucile Elliott. The Dues family are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church and take an interested part in parish affairs. Mr. Dues has rendered public service as a member of the town council, serving as president of the council for several years. He is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

FRED DICKE, a substantial landowner and retired farmer of German township, now living at New Bremen, where he has made his home for some years past, was born on a farm in that township on June 16, 1860, and is a son of Fred and Minnie (Meyer) Dicke, natives of Germany, who had come to this country in 1853, following their marriage, and had settled in this county. The senior Fred Dicke was a shepherd in his home country, but upon locating here became employed on the canal and was thus engaged until he had acquired a sufficient sum of money to make the initial payment on a tract of uncleared timber land and on that place, a tract of forty-six acres in the northwest corner of the township, in section 6, adjacent to Mercer county, he established his home. In time he got the place cleared and improved and added to his holdings a tract across the line in Mercer county which gave him a farm of 100 acres and became one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. To him and his wife were born eight children, but two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch and his brother, Gus Dicke. Two of their sisters, Minnie and Sophia, died but recently. Reared on the home farm in German township, the junior Fred Dicke received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his youth gave his attention to the labors of developing the farm, working with his father in this behalf until after his marriage, when his father retired and he took over the operations of the farm, of which in time he became the owner. Mr. Dicke continued to farm there until his retirement from the place in 1915 and removal to New Bremen, where he is now living and where he and his wife are very comfortably situated. He still owns the farm of 100 acres and though taking no very active part in the practical operation of the same, continues to keep a pretty close supervisory eye on things. Mr. Dicke has for years taken an interested part in local civic affairs and for six years served as supervisor of highways in his home district. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church of which Mr. Dicke is a former trustee, and their children were reared in that faith. Mr. Dicke married Martha Weppenhorst, a daughter of Henry and Minnie (Quellhorst) Weppenhorst, both also members of pioneer families here, and to this union four children have been born, Edwin, Herbert H., Della and Hilda, all of whom are married and have families of their own, Mr. and Mrs. Dicke now having eleven grandchildren, in whom they take much delight. Edwin Dicke married Alice Niemeyer and has six

children, Frederick, Paul, Woodrow, Franklin, Richard and Eloise. Herbert H. Dicke married Sabrina Doenges and has three children, Leola, Robert and John. Della Dicke married Louis Weinberg and has one child, a daughter, Louise, and Hilda Dicke married Karl Poppe and has one child, a son, Karl, Jr.

FRED W. QUELLHORST, a well known and substantial farmer and landowner of St. Marys township, now living retired at New Bremen, was born on a pioneer farm in St. Marys township, about midway between St. Marys and New Bremen, June 16, 1862, and is a son of Charles H. and Anna (Meyer) Quellhorst, the latter of whom also was born in that township, a member of one of the pioneer families there. Charles Henry Quellhorst was about twenty-one years of age when he came to America with his parents, the family settling in this county, and for some time after coming here he was employed on a state boat in the canal service out of St. Marys. The money thus earned was presently utilized to buy a small farm in St. Marys township, a tract of eighty acres along the canal in section 26, and he established his home there. He did well at his farming operations and as his affairs prospered added to his holdings until he was the owner of 240 acres in that township. There he and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of ten children, eight of whom grew to maturity, the subject of this sketch having had three sisters, Minnie (deceased), Flory and Sophia, and three brothers, John D., August H., Edward and Florence. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, Fred W. Quellhorst completed his schooling in the school house at Lock 2 (New Paris) and remained on the farm, a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing the same, until his marriage, after which for one year he made his home on a rented farm and then bought a tract of forty acres to which he presently added an adjoining tract of twenty acres. He continued farming this sixty-acre farm for some time and then sold it and bought a farm of 100 acres. On this latter place, which he still owns, Mr. Quellhorst continued actively engaged in farming until his retirement in 1912 and removal to New Bremen, where he since has made his home and where he and his wife are very comfortably situated. Fred W. Quellhorst married Emma Kellermeyer, daughter of C. F. Kellermeyer, a member of one of the old families in this county, and to this union three children were born, namely: Ferd H., who married Malinda Fricke and has one child, a daughter, Leota; Luella, who married Arlie W. Sweppe and has three children, Alma, Vernon and Merlin, and Alvera, who married Oscar Hirschfelt and has two children, Virgil and Leverta. Mr. Quellhorst is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church, with which congregation he has been connected for thirty-five years.

ALBERT W. SCHULTZ, a well known young farmer of Noble township, was born on a farm in St. Marys township, January 18, 1890, and is a son of John and Mary (Hormel) Schultz, both members of pioneer families in this county. John Schultz, who is now living retired, was born on a farm in Washington township, this county, and is a son of Helmut and Mary Schultz, who came to this county in pioneer days from Dayton. Helmut Schultz was a native of Germany and after his arrival in this country made his home at Dayton, Ohio, for some time and then came up into Auglaize county and bought a piece of land in Washington township, where he established his home and spent the remainder of his life. On that pioneer farm John Schultz grew to manhood, well trained in the ways of practical farming. For a time after his marriage he resided on a farm in St. Marys township and then bought a tract of forty-five acres in Washington township. On this latter place he made his home, actively engaged in farming, until his retirement in 1922 and removal to St. Marys, where he and his wife are now living. They have four children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Nettie, and two brothers, Theodore and Emil Schultz. Reared on the home farm in Washington township, Albert W. Schultz received his schooling in the schools of that township and from the days of his boyhood he has been engaged in farming. He married when twenty-seven years of age and then established his home on the place on which he is now living in Noble township, an excellent farm of seventy acres owned by his father, and has since resided there, carrying on his farming operations in up-to-date fashion, and is doing well. It was on March 1, 1917, that Albert W. Schultz was united in marriage to Hilda Elshoff, who was born in the neighboring county of Shelby, and to this union have been born three children, Almond, Ruth and John W. Mr. and Mrs. Schultz have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys. They are members of the Lutheran church at St. Marys and are Democrats.

O. P. McCLINTOCK, a well known merchant of Wapakoneta, proprietor of a well established grocery store at the corner of Bellefontaine and Middle streets, is a native "Buckeye" and has resided in this state all his life. Mr. McClintock was born on a farm south of Lima, in the neighboring county of Allen, February 9, 1879, and is a son of Andrew and Loretta (Reed) McClintock, the latter of whom was born in that same county, daughter of Manuel Reed, and is still living, making her home in Duchouquet township, this county. The late Andrew McClintock was born in Miami county, this state, a son of George McClintock and wife, the former a native of Ireland, who later settled on a farm in the northern part of Duchouquet township, in this county. On that farm Andrew McClintock grew to manhood and later went to Allen county, where he married Loretta Reed and

was for some time engaged in farming, but afterward returned to this county and settled on a farm southwest of Cridersville, in Duchouquet township, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there in 1917, and where his widow is still living. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom are living save two. O. P. McClintock was reared on the home farm and his schooling was received in the neighborhood schools. For some time after leaving school he continued to work on the farm and then he became engaged in oil operations and was for six or seven years thus engaged, after which he bought a couple of farms, one of 120 acres and another of eighty acres in Auglaize county and was engaged in farming until 1920, when he moved to Wapakoneta and began operating a cream station there, presently changing this into a grocery store and is now engaged in the latter business, with a well stocked place at the corner of Bellefontaine and Middle streets, and is doing well. In 1903 O. P. McClintock was united in marriage to Millie Merkle, daughter of Anthony and Moreline (Conrad) Merkle, well-to-do farmers of Duchouquet township, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Virgil and Otis, the former born in 1904 and the latter in 1910. The McClintocks reside at 409 Bellefontaine street and are quite pleasantly situated. In his political views Mr. McClintock reserves his right to vote independently of party affiliations.

ALOYS J. WAGNER, of the firm of Friemering & Wagner, grocers, at New Bremen, and one of the well known young business men of that city, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life. Mr. Wagner was born at Coldwater, in the neighboring county of Mercer, December 1, 1898, and is a son of Joseph and Mary Wagner, both of whom were born in that same county. Joseph Wagner, who is now living retired at Coldwater, grew up to the trade of wagon maker and worked at that vocation at Coldwater for some time after his marriage. He then became engaged in farming in Darke county and was thus engaged until his retirement and removal to Coldwater, where he is now living. To him and his wife nine children were born. Of these, five are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Agnes and Minnie, and two brothers, John and Gus Wagner. Reared at Coldwater, Aloys J. Wagner received his schooling there and as a young man went to Fremont, where he was engaged in factory work for some time and then went to Middletown, where for ten years he was engaged working in the steel mills. He then, in April, 1920, became engaged in business at New Bremen in partnership with his brother-in-law, Alfred J. Friemering, at New Bremen, under the firm name of Friemering & Wagner, and has since been thus engaged, this firm carrying on their grocery business in up-to-date fashion. They bought out an old established business and since taking it over have done much to improve the place and add

to its attractive power. Mr. Wagner and his wife are members of the Catholic church and are Democrats. Mr. Wagner married Margaret Friemering, a daughter of John B. Friemering, of Minster, and sister of his business partner, and to this union two children have been born, Annabel and Wallace.

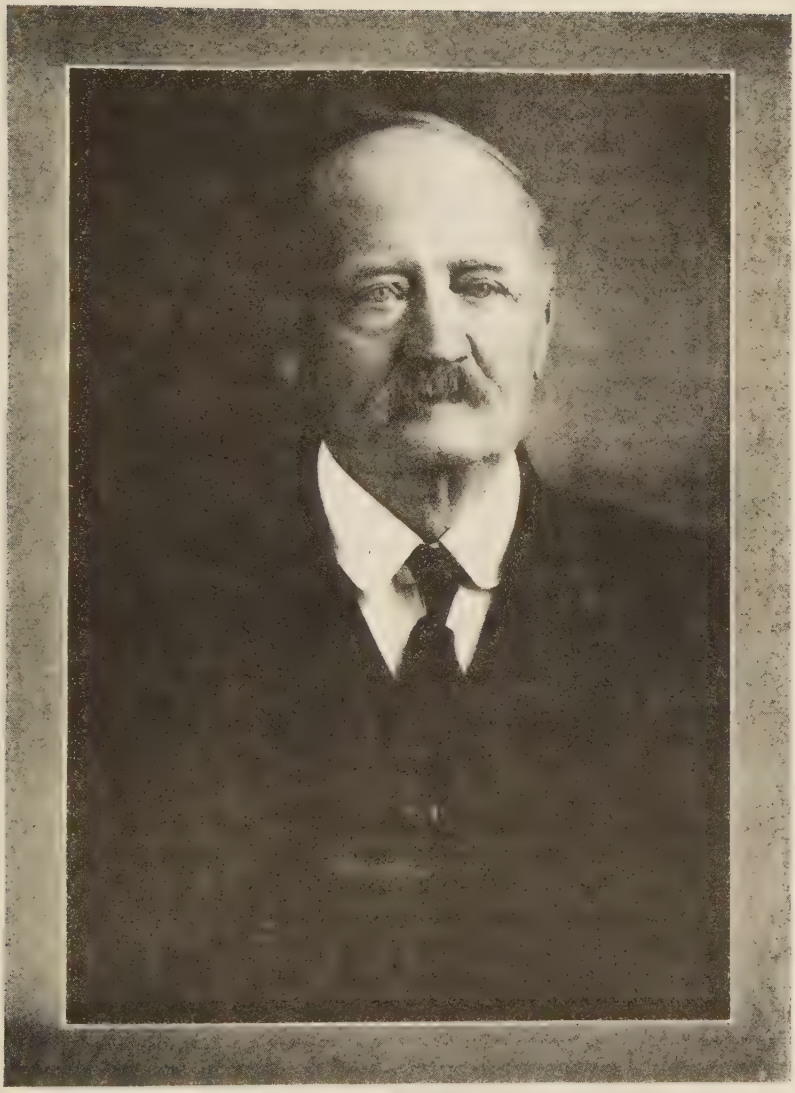
JOHN H. WAGNER, one of the well known farmers of Union township and proprietor of a well kept farm on rural mail route No. 6 out of Wapakoneta, where he makes his home, was born on a farm in Clay township on March 13, 1876, and is a son of John and Sarah Ann (Phillips) Wagner, the latter of whom is still living. The late John Wagner also was born in Clay township and was a son of John Wagner and wife, who had come here from Pennsylvania in pioneer days and had settled on a woodland farm of seventy-two acres in Clay township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The junior John Wagner grew to manhood on that farm and eventually became the owner of it, buying from the other heirs their respective interests in the farm, and as his affairs prospered continued to add to his land holdings until he became the owner of 376 acres in Clay and Union townships and over in Stokes township in the neighboring county of Logan. He spent his life on the farm, his death occurring in 1919. To him and his wife were born eight children, all of whom are living save two, Reuben and one who died in infancy, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Lilia, Hugh, George, Bessie and Delmar. Reared on the home farm in Clay township, John H. Wagner received his schooling in the neighborhood school and from the days of his boyhood has been attentive to the affairs of the farm. He continued his operations in association with his father on the home place until his marriage at the age of twenty-seven and then made his home on the "eighty" which he now owns in Union township, which then was a part of his father's holdings, and eventually came into the same by inheritance and has continued farming the place. He has a good farm plant and he and his wife are quite comfortably situated. In their political views they are Republicans. It was on December 31, 1903, that John H. Wagner was united in marriage to Minnie E. Phillips and to this union two children have been born, both of whom died in infancy. Mrs. Wagner was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Logan and is a daughter of Joseph M. and Laura (Shockey) Phillips, who are still living there. Her father, Joseph McKee Phillips, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1852, and is a son of Isaac and Esther M. (McKee) Phillips, the former of whom also was born in Ohio. In the early '50s Isaac Phillips settled in Pike county with his family. Six years later he moved to Ross county and in 1864 moved to Hardin county, where he spent the remainder of his life. Joseph McKee Phillips was twelve years of age when his parents settled in Har-

din county and there he grew to manhood. After his marriage he bought a farm of 100 acres in Logan county and some years later sold that place and moved to Canada. Not finding things there to his liking he returned to Logan county six years later and is still living there. To him and his wife were born six children, all of whom are living save one daughter, Esther, Mrs. Wagner having three sisters, Mary May, Arabella and Elma, and a brother, Isaac, all of whom are married save Elma. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips have eleven grandchildren.

GLENDOR JUNG, who is recognized as one of the most progressive young farmers of Auglaize county and who is the proprietor of a well improved and well cultivated farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of New Bremen, in German township, was born on a farm in Van Buren township, in the neighboring county of Shelby, December 20, 1892, and is the son and only child of John and Ida (Maurer) Jung, the latter of whom was born in Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. The later John Jung was born in Van Buren township, Shelby county, and was a son of Charles and Elizabeth (Pfetzenton) Jung, both natives of Germany, who had come to this country in the days of their youth, their respective families settling in Ohio. Charles Jung was a well grown boy when he came with his parents to this country, the family settling in Shelby county. After his marriage there he established his home on a farm in Van Buren township and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Their son John was born on that farm and there grew to manhood. After his marriage he continued to live there until after the marriage of his son, Glendor, who made his home in this county, when he disposed of his interests in Shelby county and bought the farm of seventy acres in German township, this county, now owned by his son, and there spent his last days, his death occurring on June 15, 1919. His wife had predeceased him many years, her death having occurred in 1893, not long after the birth of her son. Glendor Jung grew to manhood on the home farm in Shelby county and in the schools of that neighborhood received his schooling. Even from the days of his boyhood he was well trained in the ways of practical farming and he remained with his father on the farm until after his marriage, when he made his home at New Bremen. It was not long after that that his father bought the farm of seventy acres in German township above referred to and he then moved to the farm and was there engaged in farming, in association with his father, until the latter's death, since which time he has been in possession of the place. Mr. Jung is a progressive farmer and has developed his tract of seventy acres into one of the best small farms in the neighborhood. He has specialized in corn culture and in 1921 was the winner of the first prize in the county corn contest,

his corn taking first honors in the germination test. It was in 1917 that Glendor Jung was united in marriage to Lydia Schneider, daughter of Henry and Louise (Weigman) Schneider, of New Bremen, and to this union three children have been born, Mildred, Agnes and Irene. The Jungs have a very pleasant home and take an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. and Mrs. Jung are members of St. Peter's Evangelical church at New Bremen and are Republicans.

E. LEWIS KATTMAN, former mayor of New Knoxville, formerly and for years a justice of the peace in and for Washington township, former town clerk of New Knoxville and a veteran lumberman of that place, now living retired there, was born at New Knoxville and has lived there all his life, one of the strong and influential figures in the development of that place for the past fifty years and more, the beginning of this personal influence dating back to the days when as a young man he was engaged thereabout teaching school. Mr. Kattman was born on October 21, 1852, and is a son of William and Sophia (Niemeyer) Kattman, who were among the early residents of the village of New Knoxville. William Kattman was a native of Germany, as was his wife. He grew to manhood in his native land, learning there the blacksmith trade. When he had passed his majority he came to the United States and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating at New Knoxville, where he set up a blacksmith shop, thus becoming the first blacksmith in the village —and for years the only one. Upon coming here he also entered a tract of eighty acres of land in section 29 of Washington township, this land lying adjacent to the New Knoxville town plat, and on that place established his home and carried on his business, the pioneer blacksmith and farrier of that part of the county. William Kattman's entry of Government land was made in 1845, three years before the erection of Auglaize county, and he thus properly must be regarded as having been one of the "fathers" of the county. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, and the descendants of these in the present generation form a no inconsiderable connection. Of these eleven children, three are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Louise and Sophia. Reared at New Knoxville, E. Lewis Kattman received his early schooling there and supplemented this by attendance on the high school at Wapakoneta, after which he became engaged in teaching school, a vocation he followed thereafter during the winters for fifteen years, teaching in the schools of Washington and German townships, this county, and in the neighboring county of Shelby. In the meantime he had been giving his attention to the lumber industry, which in the days of the "big timber" hereabout was the leading industry in this section of Ohio, and thus became thoroughly familiar with the details of lum-



E. LEWIS KATTMAN

ber milling and shipping. He presently became engaged in the lumber milling business on his own account, a member of the firm of Luterbein, Koch & Kattman, millers and shippers of lumber, at New Knoxville. After awhile Mr. Koch sold his interest in the concern, which thereafter was operated under the name of Luterbein & Kattman, until Mr. Luterbein sold his interest to Fred Kettler, and the firm name again was changed, becoming the Kattman & Kettler Lumber Company, better known as the K. K. Lumber Company, which continued doing business under this firm style until March 28, 1922, when Mr. Kattman sold his interest in the concern and retired from business. Mr. Kattman thus must be regarded as one of the real veterans of the lumber industry in this section. He grew up with the business, in the days when it was the practice to buy up timber tracts, move a mill onto a convenient location thereon and saw up the good timber for shipping, but the central yards and offices always were maintained at New Knoxville, where he ever has had his headquarters, one of the leading men of affairs of that thriving village. In addition to his activities in an industrial way, Mr. Kattman has also for many years been one of the leaders in civic affairs in that part of the county. He is a Republican and has rendered conspicuous public service in his community, having served for several terms as mayor of New Knoxville, for some time as town clerk, and for six years (1894-1900) as justice of the peace in and for Washington township, and in other ways has discharged faithfully his obligations to the community of which he has been a part all his life. He and his wife, who was born in Germany, Charlotte Peters, daughter of Ernest and Sophia Marie Peters, are members of the German Reformed church at New Knoxville and have ever been active in the affairs of that congregation, Mr. Kattman, among other services to the church, having been choir leader of the church for ten years. Mr. and Mrs. Kattman have a pleasant home at New Knoxville and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the community.

L. D. KOCH, a former member of the board of county commissioners for Auglaize county and a substantial farmer and landowner of Pusheta township, proprietor of a well improved farm, just north of the village of Freyburg, was born on that place and has lived there all his life. Mr. Koch was born on November 22, 1862, and is a son of John and Margaret (Fritz) Koch, both natives of Germany, the latter born at Sundorf. She was sixteen years of age when she came to this country with her parents who, with their six children, landed at the port of New York and proceeded thence immediately to Ohio to join old country friends who had preceded them here and had sent back to them good word regarding the possibilities awaiting settlers in this section of the state. Mr. Fritz bought a tract of forty

acres in Pusheta township, a part of the place now owned by William Schlagel, and there established his home and settled down to make a farm out of his woodland tract. Ten or twelve years later he died there and his widow long survived him. Of their six children, Catherine, Eureka, Josephine, Margaret, Frederick and David, all are now deceased save Josephine, who is living in Cincinnati. The late John Koch was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, a grand duchy of Germany, and was twelve years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family landing at the port of New York after a voyage on a sail boat which required ninety-seven days to make the passage. The family proceeded thence to Cincinnati, where the father, who was a shoemaker, worked at his trade a year or more, and then came up here with his family and settled on a farm in Pusheta township, which then was included in Allen county, that having been before the days of the organization of Auglaize county. Grandfather Koch became the owner of 160 acres of land there, a part of the place on which his grandson, L. D. Koch, is now living, and there he and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of four children, three sons, George, Louis and John, and a daughter, all now deceased, but of their descendants in the third and fourth generation hereabout there are a considerable number. John Koch was a lad of about fourteen years of age when he came here with his parents back in pioneer days and he grew to manhood on the home place in the Freyburg neighborhood, there in the southwest quarter of section 10 of Pusheta township. Upon his father's death he bought the interest of the other heirs in the east half of this quarter section and on that eighty spent the remainder of his life, living to a green old age, he being eighty-four years of age at the time of his death. John Koch was twice married and by his first wife had one son, Ludwig Koch, who died at the age of sixty-eight. By his union with Margaret Fritz, his second wife, he was the father of five children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Fred Koch, of Ft. Wayne, Ind., and a sister, Mrs. Minnie Heisler, also of Ft. Wayne. Reared on the home farm north of Freyburg, L. D. Koch received his schooling in the German Lutheran school maintained by the congregation of that church, northwest of his father's place, this school then being known as the Sammetinger school, and from the days of his boyhood was devoted to the affairs of the farm. He married not long after attaining his majority and after his marriage established his home on the home place, his mother having meanwhile died, and continued farming for his father until the latter's death in 1891, when he came into possession and has since resided there. In addition to this well improved farm of eighty acres Mr. Koch has another tract of twenty acres in Pusheta township, this making him the owner of 100 acres. In 1912

he retired from the active operations of the farm which are now carried on by his son-in-law, Elmer Tueman, who makes his home on the place and is doing well, raising quite a bit of live stock in addition to his general farming. Mr. Koch is a Democrat and has for years given his attention to local civic affairs, having served for three terms (1913-15 and 1917-21) as the member from his district on the board of county commissioners. It was during his first term on the board that the county was put to much expense on account of flood damage caused by the unprecedented flood in the spring of 1913 and he thus was busied in bridge reconstruction during that term. L. D. Koch has been twice married. In January, 1884, he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Seitz, who also was born and reared in Pusheta township, a daughter of Otto and Barbara (Lee) Seitz, and to that union were born two daughters, Edith, who married Elmer Tueman, now operating the Koch home place, and has three children, Harold, Lloyd and Franklin; and Huldah, who married Harry Dobies, of Wapakoneta, and has two children, Elvier and Betty. Mrs. Elizabeth Koch died in January, 1888, and on February 3, 1890, Mr. Koch married Elizabeth Burner, who was born in the neighboring county of Logan, a daughter of Frederick and Barbara (Beck) Burner, and who died on March 24, 1920, and is buried in beautiful Greenlawn cemetery at Wapakoneta. Mr. Koch is a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta and of the lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose at that place. The Koch home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 5 out of Wapakoneta.

F. H. FLEDDERJOHN, better known to his friends as Henry Fledderjohn, a substantial landowner and retired farmer, now living at New Knoxville, was born in Washington township about the time Auglaize county was being organized and is thus a member of one of the pioneer families of the New Knoxville neighborhood. Mr. Fledderjohn was born on March 9, 1848, and is a son of William and Christina (Honroth) Fledderjohn, who had come to this region with their respective parents from Germany in the days of their youth and were here married. After his marriage William Fledderjohn established his home on a farm in Washington township and there he and his wife and their eldest child died of cholera during the progress of the dreadful scourge of that disease throughout this region in 1849, leaving the subject of this sketch, then but an infant, and his elder sister Elizabeth orphaned. The baby Henry also suffered from an attack of the cholera, but recovered and was reared in the household of his uncle, H. H. Fledderjohn. His sister was reared at the home of Henry Hollscher of Washington township. Henry Fledderjohn grew to manhood in Washington township and received his schooling in the local schools. At the age of

seventeen he took up the carpenter trade and followed that for five or six years, or until 1871, when he bought a piece of property in New Knoxville and set up there a cabinet making shop and furniture store, giving his attention to cabinet making during the winters and continuing to follow his work as a carpenter during the summers. About this time he married and established his home at New Knoxville, where he resided for ten years, or until 1881, when he moved with his family to a farm of 120 acres which he previously had bought down over the line in Van Buren township, Shelby county, and there settled down to farming, a vocation which engaged his attention thereafter for more than forty years, or until his retirement in 1922 and return to New Knoxville, where he is now living, quite comfortably situated. When Mr. Fledderjohn took possession of that farm down in Shelby county it was practically unimproved and upon him fell the task of clearing the same and erecting the buildings for the excellent farm plant which he gradually built up around him. He did well in his farming operations and owns in addition to his farm and his home property in New Knoxville, a quarter of a section of land in Colorado, half of which is irrigated. Mr. Fledderjohn is a Republican and for some time prior to his removal to Shelby county served (1876-81) as treasurer of Washington township. During the time of his residence in Shelby county he also for some time served as a member of the school board for Van Buren township and in other ways has given of a good citizen's service to the public need. He and his wife are members of the Reformed Church at New Knoxville and he has served as a trustee of that congregation and also as a deacon. Henry Fledderjohn married Sophia Meckstroth, a daughter of Herman W. Meckstroth and also a member of one of the pioneer families of Washington township, and to this union twelve children have been born. Of these children ten are living, Caroline, Lydia, Emma, Matilda, Minnie, Elizabeth, Herman, Henry, Silas and Rinehart all of whom are married save Herman and Henry. Caroline Fledderjohn married L. W. Eversman and has seven children Alice, Olga, Ruth, Clarence, Esther, Leona and Helen. Lydia Fledderjohn married William Rodeheffer and has two children, Cornelia and Paul. Emma Fledderjohn married Herman Kuck and has six children, Matilda, Henrietta, Ruth, Martha, Christina and Esther. Matilda Fledderjohn married Fred Lammers and has four children, Paul, Tabitha, Silas and Victor. Minnie Fledderjohn married Benjamin Weirwille and has three children, Velma, Luella and Nathan. Elizabeth Fledderjohn married Wesley Lammers and has two children, John Wesley and Loren. Silas Fledderjohn married Irma Greber and has two children, Robert and Donald, and Rinehart Fledderjohn married Irene Koepke. It thus will be noted that Mr. and Mrs. Fledderjohn have no fewer than twenty-six grandchildren, in all of whom they take much pride and delight.

H. A. WILLIAM WIERWILLE, a substantial farmer and landowner of St. Marys township, proprietor of an excellent farm on rural route No. 2, out of New Bremen, where he makes his home, was born on that farm, in the southeast quarter of section 25, and has lived there all his life, having taken over the farm after his father's death twenty years and more ago. Mr. Wierwille was born on October 20, 1859, and is a son of H. H. W. and Elizabeth (Nussmeyer) Wierwille, both of whom were born in Germany, but were married in this county. The late H. H. W. Wierwille, formerly and for years one of the well known citizens of the southeastern part of St. Marys township, was nineteen years of age when he came to this country with his brother William and settled at New Bremen, in this county. For some time after his arrival there he worked on the canal, as did his brother, and in this manner earned money sufficient to buy a tract of forty acres of land a mile or more east of the canal in section 25 of St. Marys township. He married Elizabeth Nussmeyer, a daughter of Herman Nussmeyer, one of the pioneers of this county, about six years after his arrival here and established his home on that "forty." As his affairs prospered he added to his holdings by the purchase of an adjoining forty, then after awhile a tract of fifty-three acres in Shelby county and later another tract of ninety-three acres, thus becoming the owner of 226 acres of land. He continued actively engaged in superintending his farm operations until his death in 1901. His wife had preceded him to the grave more than a quarter of a century, her death having occurred in 1875. They were members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville and their children were reared in that faith. There were four of these children, all of whom are still living save one, a daughter, Christina, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Schulenerdberry, of Shelby county, and a brother, Adolph Wierwille, of St. Marys township. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, H. A. William Wierwille received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood was trained in the ways of farming, and after his marriage continued farming on the home place. After the death of his father he took over eighty acres of this place, as well as a tract of fifty-three acres in Shelby county —133 acres in all—and has since been farming the same. Mr. Wierwille has a well improved farm plant, including an individual electric lighting system, and has done well in his operations. For thirty-five years he was one of the proprietors of a threshing rig and in this connection became one of the best known men in that part of the county. He is an "independent" Democrat and has rendered public service in several capacities, having been a member of the township school board for twelve years and for two terms supervisor of roads in his district. He and his wife are members of the

Reformed church at New Knoxville. H. A. William Wierwille married Louise Oberwitte, daughter of Herman Oberwitte, who was a native of Germany and one of the pioneers of this county, and to this union have been born eight children, namely: Oscar, deceased; Mrs. Luetta Bierman, of Columbus, Ind.; Mrs. Emma Quellhorst, of this county; Mrs. Amanda Haberkamp, of this county; Mrs. Clara Ahlers, of this county; Mrs. Leona Schrier, also of this county, and Raymond and Marie, who are at home. Mr. Wierwille has helped develop the farming interests of his home township since the days of his boyhood and in this time has witnessed amazing changes in methods.

WALTER NEUMANN, chief engineer of the extensive plant of the White Mountain Creamery Company at New Bremen and the oldest employe in point of continuous service connected with that establishment, was born in this county and his lived here all his life. Mr. Neumann was born on a farm in the New Bremen neighborhood in German township on March 11, 1872, and is a son of John H. and Adaline (Sweacke) Neumann, both of whom were natives of Germany but had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the Neumanns and the Sweackes both becoming residents of the New Bremen community. John H. Neumann was but a lad when he came to this country and he grew up in the New Bremen settlement and became a practical farmer. After his marriage he settled on a farm and established his home, spending the remainder of his life there. He owned a good place of eighty acres. Of the children born to John H. Neumann and wife, six are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Sophia, and four brothers, John, August, Fred and Henry Neumann. Reared on the home farm in German township, Walter Neumann received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained on the farm until he was eighteen years of age when he began working in a harness shop at New Bremen. He continued thus employed until he was twenty-five years of age and then transferred his services to a grain elevator company and was employed with that concern for two years and six months, at the end of which time, in 1899, he became connected with the operations of the White Mountain creamery at New Bremen and has ever since been thus connected. Mr. Neumann thus has witnessed the development of this concern from the very beginning of its operations on more than a merely local basis, for he was the first employe taken on when Mr. Huenke started to make practical the dream he had long entertained of developing here a great creamery plant. Mr. Neumann thus "grew up" with the business and became familiar with every detail of its operation, his services in this connection long ago being rewarded by his elevation to the position of chief engineer of the plant, the position he now occupies. Walter Neumann married Elizabeth Zwez, daughter of Julius F.

Zwez, and to this union five children have been born, Celia, Gladys, Caroline, Stella and Hilmer, the latter of whom, the Rev. Hilmer Neumann, a minister of the Evangelical church, now has charge of St. John's Evangelical church at New Orleans. He completed his theological studies at the Eden Seminary at St. Louis and was ordained to the ministry in 1921. Celia Neumann married Cornelius Heinfeld and has one child, a daughter, Verneta. The Neumanns have a pleasant home at New Bremen and have ever taken an interested part in the community's general social activities. Mr. and Mrs. Neumann are members of St. Peter's Evangelical church and Mr. Neumann has served as secretary of the congregation and also of the Sunday school. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, serving at present as treasurer of the New Bremen fire department.

J. GEORGE SEIBERT, one of Salem township's well known farmers and a member of one of the old families of that township, living on the ancestral home in the southern part of the township has been a resident of Auglaize county since he was three years old. Mr. Seibert was born in Crawford county, Ohio, September 13, 1861, and is a son of Fred and Fredericka (Linn) Seibert, who became residents of Auglaize county in 1864 and whose last days were spent here. The late Fred Seibert also was born in Crawford county and was a son of Peter Seibert, one of the pioneers of that county, who had settled there not long after coming to this country from Europe, he and his wife having been natives of the grand duchy of Baden. Fred Seibert grew to manhood in Crawford county and after his marriage established his home on a tract of forty acres he had bought in that county. He remained there until 1864, when he sold that farm and came to Auglaize county and bought a tract of eighty-three acres, a bit more than the measured west half of the southwest quarter of section 3 of Salem township. On this tract, which he cleared and out of which he created a good farm, he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1915. To him and his wife were born seven children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Julia, and a brother, Francis Seibert. As noted above, J. George Seibert was but three years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1864 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the southern part of Salem township, six miles north of St. Marys and about a mile and a half southwest of Kossuth. He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and grew up familiar with the details of farm management, his boyhood recollections being full of many experiences incidental to the drudgery of clearing a timber tract and making a farm out of it. He married at the age of twenty-eight years and then established his home on a farm of fifty-two acres he had bought in Noble township

and continued there engaged in farming until 1916, when, after the death of his father, he returned to the old home place in Salem township and has since been living there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Seibert has a well improved farm and an excellent farm plant and is doing well in his operations. It was on February 19, 1890, that J. George Seibert was united in marriage to Wilhelmina Koenig, daughter of George and Margaret (Burkhart) Koenig, of this county, and to this union three children have been born, one of whom—Laverne—is deceased, the others being Fred and Irvin, the latter of whom served as a soldier during the time of this country's participation in the World war. Fred Seibert married Julia Funk, of Wayne county, Ohio, and has one child, a son, Richard F. The Seiberts have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys. Mr. and Mrs. Seibert are members of the Reformed church at St. Marys and in their political views are independent.

CHARLES F. SCHROEDER, a well-known and substantial farmer and landowner of Washington township, now a breeder of purebred Duroc Jersey hogs at New Knoxville, where he and his family are very comfortably situated, is a conspicuous example in his life of what may be accomplished against apparently great odds. Bereft of his mother by death when he was but an infant, orphaned by the death of his father when he was ten, Mr. Schroeder came to America when fourteen a penniless boy dependent upon a kindly kinsman for the passage money which brought him over. Starting to work as a farm hand, he quickly found that willing hands and a stout heart had a real value in this country, and he kept going until at an age when most men are still "buckling down" to the job, he was able to retire from active labor, the owner of a valuable farm and independent of the erstwhile buffetings of fortune. Mr. Schroeder is a European by birth, born in the Prussian province of Westphalia, Germany, April 5, 1870, and is a son of William and Louise (Brocksmith) Schroeder, the latter of whom died not long after the birth of her son, leaving also another child, a son, Henry. The father of these sons, a poor tenant farmer, died when Charles was ten years of age, and the latter was looked after by kinsfolk in the old country until he was fourteen years of age, when his uncle, William Hoffman, who some years before had come to this country and had become established in Darke county, this state, provided the means for his passage to this country. Upon his arrival in Darke county, Charles F. Schroeder began working as a farm hand, his pay being $4 a month for the first year of his service in this connection. For five years he worked in Darke county and then he went to California and began working in a large vineyard there, and was thus engaged for three years, at the end of which time he returned to Ohio and

CHARLES F. SCHROEDER AND WIFE

resumed his old employment as a farm hand in Darke county. Two years later he came to Auglaize county and became engaged in farm labor in the New Knoxville neighborhood, and was thus engaged until his marriage two years later, when he rented a farm of ninety-nine acres in Washington township and started in to farm on his own account, establishing his home there. Four years later he bought a "forty" of this place, and as his affairs prospered later bought the remainder of the tract. Mr. Schroeder carried on his farming operations in a systematic manner, and these proved so successful that in 1919 he was able to retire from the farm and move to New Knoxville, on the outskirts of which pleasant village he bought a tract of ten acres, built himself a substantial and attractive dwelling house and has since lived there, the owner of 110 acres of valuable land which is being farmed in profitable fashion. He now is giving his special attention to the breeding of purebred Duroc Jersey hogs. Charles F. Schroeder married Anna Eschmeyer, daughter of Henry and Christina Eschmeyer, and to this union have been born three children, Selma, Lawrence and Evelyn, the two latter of whom are at home with their parents. Selma Schroeder married Norman Grewe and has one child, a daughter, Magdalena Mary. The Schroeders are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville. Mr. Schroeder is a Republican and has rendered public service as supervisor of highways in his district.

A. W. BOECKER, one of the best known young business men of Minster, proprietor of a grocery store and meat market there, a leader in the Commercial Club and a former member of the town board of public affairs, was born at Minster and has lived there all his life. Mr. Boecker was born on September 23, 1888, and is a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Ripploh) Boecker, both of whom also were born at Minster, members of pioneer families in that town, and are still living there. Benjamin Boecker was early trained to the trade of carpenter and for some years during the days of his young manhood followed that trade and then he began to operate on his own account as a building contractor, and was thus engaged until his retirement. To him and his wife were born two children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Alvina. Reared at Minster, A. W. Boecker received his schooling in the schools of that place and as a lad became engaged as a carpenter in connection with his father's operations in and about Minster. For nine years he followed that vocation and then he became engaged in business at Minster as a grocer. It was in 1910 that Mr. Boecker opened his grocery store at Minster. He continued carrying on business in the room in which he had established his store until 1919, when the growing demands of his trade required more commodious quarters and he moved into his present place of business, at the same time adding to his enterprise a retail meat

market, and is now the only grocer in town who also has a meat market. In 1921 he installed in his place an up-to-date cooling device for his meats and perishable stock and in other ways also has an admirable equipment. Mr. Boecker is an active member of the local Commercial Club and for some time served as a member of the board of trustees of that organization. He is a Democrat and takes a proper interest in local civic affairs, for some time having served as a member of the board of public affairs. A. W. Boecker married Celia Dorsten, daughter of John Dorsten, of Minster, and to this union two children have been born, Wilfred and Frederick. Mr. and Mrs. Boecker are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church and he is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

EDWARD F. KATTERHENRY, former assessor of Noble township and a well known farmer and landowner of that township, is a Hoosier by birth, but has been a resident of Ohio and of this county since the days of his boyhood and there are few men in the northwestern part of the county better known than he. Mr. Katterhenry was born in the vicinity of the city of Columbus, in Bartholomew county, Indiana, October 29, 1875, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Fetherjohn) Katterhenry, who later became residents of Auglaize county. William Katterhenry was born in Germany, where he received his schooling and grew to manhood. As a young man he came to this country and after awhile located in Waymansville, Ind., where he presently became employed as a mail carrier on a star mail route out of Columbus, which is the county seat of Bartholomew county, this county taking its name in honor of Lieut. Col. Joseph Bartholomew, who was wounded in action during the historic battle of the Tippecanoe, November 7, 1811, when General Harrison's forces put to rout a strong force of allied redskins and thus broke the backbone of Tecumseh's proposed Indian confederation. After a sometime residence in Indiana, William Katterhenry moved to Cincinnati and was for six or seven years there employed in a pork-packing plant as a butcher. He then moved up into Auglaize county and settled at New Knoxville, where he became employed as a carpenter and builder and there remained until 1894, when he moved to Sandusky, Ohio, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there in 1907. To him and his wife were born nine children, all of whom are living save one, a daughter, Sadie, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Louis, Anna, Catherine, William, Ida, Otto and Elizabeth. Edward F. Katterhenry was about six years of age when his parents left Indiana and moved to Cincinnati and in the schools of that city he received his early schooling. He was twelve or thirteen years of age when the family came up into Auglaize county and his schooling was completed in the schools of New Knox-

ville. As a young man he became engaged as a painter and for nine years followed that vocation at New Knoxville. He then rented the farm of forty acres on which he is now living in Noble township and, having married meanwhile, established his home on that place and has ever since been living there. In addition to the general farming operations which he carries on there, Mr. Katterhenry owns an adjacent "forty" and is farming this latter place also, making somewhat of a specialty of the dairy interests he has developed. Mr. Katterhenry is a Republican and has rendered public service as assessor of Washington township, serving one term in that important capacity. He also has served on the local election board and takes a warm interest in local political affairs. On November 3, 1898, Edward F. Katterhenry was united in marriage to Fredericka Schmidt, who was born in Germany and who came to this country with her parents, Rudolph and Sophia Schmidt, when but a child, the family settling in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Katterhenry have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys. They are members of St. Paul's church at St. Marys and take a proper interest in church affairs.

HENRY C. KELLERMEYER, a well known farmer and stockman of St. Marys township, was born on the farm on which he is now living and has lived there all his life. He was born on February 1, 1887, and is a son of Edwin and Minnie (Quellhorst) Kellermeyer, both of whom, also, were born in this county, in the New Bremen neighborhood, members of pioneer families there. Edwin Kellermeyer, who is now living retired at St. Marys, grew up on a farm in this county and after his marriage established his home on the farm on which his son Henry is now living, in St. Marys township, starting in there with a tract of forty acres. As his affairs prospered he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of 140 acres, on which he continued to make his home until his retirement in September, 1915, and removal to St. Marys, where he since has made his home, his son Henry looking after affairs on the farm. Edwin Kellermeyer has been twice married. His first wife (Minnie Quellhorst) died in November, 1892, leaving three children, the subject of this sketch and Fred and Martha. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Kellermeyer married Sarah Lenhart, who was born in the vicinity of Jackson Center, in the neighboring county of Shelby, and to this union have been born three children, Clara, Leon and Alton. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, Henry C. Kellermeyer received his schooling in the Barrington school and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in the ways of practical farming. Following his marriage at the age of twenty-eight years, in 1915, he established his home on the home farm, his father retiring at that time, and has since been

farming the place on a rental basis. This is an excellent farm of 140 acres on rural mail route No. 4 out of St. Marys and since taking charge of operations there Mr. Kellermeyer has done well. He gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and feeds out around a hundred head of hogs a year. His place is otherwise well stocked and his farm plant is kept up in admirable fashion. Mr. Kellermeyer is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of St. Paul's Reformed church at St. Marys, of which congregation he is one of the deacons. It was on February 18, 1915, that Henry C. Kellermeyer was united in marriage to Sarah Wellman, also a member of one of the old families of Auglaize county, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Irene, born on October 21, 1915, who died on January 7, 1919. Mrs. Kellermeyer was born in Washington township, this county, and was twelve years of age when her parents, Herman and Caroline (Katterheinrich) Wellman, moved from that township into St. Marys township, where they are now living, Herman Wellman being the owner of a farm of ninety-two acres in this latter township. To Herman Wellman and wife ten children have been born, all of whom are living save one, a daughter, Elizabeth, who died at the age of sixteen years, Mrs. Kellermeyer having four sisters, Ida, Ella, Priscilla and Gertrude, and four brothers, William, Conrad, Ferdinand and Edward Wellman.

JOSEPH A. WOEHRMYER, substantial farmer and landowner of Jackson township, now living retired at Minster, where he has made his home for the past ten years, was born in Jackson township on November 8, 1859, and is a son of August and Theresa (Pillage) Woehrmyer, both natives of Germany, whose last days were spent in this county. August Woehrmyer was about twenty-one years of age when he came to this country and located at Cincinnati, where for about eight years he followed his trade as a cooper. He married in Cincinnati and not long afterward came up into this part of the state and settled at Minster, where he opened a cooper shop. Not long afterward he bought a ten-acre tract of land just north of town, in the southeast quarter of section 22 of Jackson township, a half mile north of Minster, and there erected a dwelling house and a cooper shop and established his home. For twenty-five or thirty years he carried on his cooperage business there, finding a ready outlet for his products in the canal trade. Meantime he had been increasing his landholdings until he became the owner of 200 acres of land, 120 acres of which was in the neighboring county of Shelby, and his last days were spent in directing his extensive agricultural operations, in which he was quite successful. To him and his wife were born seven children, the subject of this sketch and his six sisters, Mary, Elizabeth, Anna, Louise, Rose and Kate. Reared on the home place just north of town, Joseph A. Woehrmyer received his schooling in the

Minster schools and as a lad began to work in his father's cooper shop. Presently he found his services more useful in connection with his father's farming operations and he became a practical farmer. He remained with his father until the latter's death, after which he took charge of the home farm and remained there until some little time after his marriage, when he moved to a farm of 165 acres north of town, where he established his home and where he continued actively engaged in farming and stock raising, making a specialty of pure bred Shorthorn cattle, until his retirement from the farm in 1913 and removal to Minster, where he since has resided and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Woehrmyer is a Republican of the old school and has been undeviating in his advocacy of the principles of that party, his claim to be the oldest voting Republican in Jackson township being undisputed. When he cast his first vote there were but two other Republican votes cast in that township. He has ever taken an interested part in public affairs and for twelve years served as superintendent of pikes in his home district. He and his family are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church and for eight years he served as a member of the board of trustees of the valuable property held by that parish. He also is a member of the St. Augustine Orphans Society and in other ways takes an interest in parish affairs. Joseph A. Woehrmyer married Josephine Fortman and he and his wife have eight children, Amelia, John, Harry, Julius, Catherine, Willard, Corena and Homer, all of whom are married save the two last named. Amelia Woehrmyer married Joseph Thieman and has two children, Burdetta and Dorothy. John Woehrmyer married Julianna Ritter and has four children, Harold, Lester, Junius and Alton. Harry Woehrmyer married Florence Tobie and has three children, Maurice, Violet and Grace. Julius Woehrmyer married Nora Ritter and has three children, Russell, Vera and Earl. Catherin Woehrmyer married Harry Heckman and has two children, Reginald and Robert, and Willard Woehrmyer, who served as a soldier during the time of America's participation in the World war, married Abalonia Bornhorst and has one child, a son, Melvin. It thus will be noted that Mr. and Mrs. Woehrmyer have fifteen grandchildren, in all of whom they take much delight. Mrs. Woehrmyer was born in the neighboring county of Shelby and is a daughter of Anton and Gertrude (Gerwells) Fortman, the latter of whom was born in Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. The late Anton Fortman, who was a substantial farmer in Shelby county, was born in Germany and was under his minority when he came to this country and made his way out to Ohio, locating at Minster, where for some time he was employed on the state boat in the canal service. After his marriage here he took up farming and established his home in

Shelby county, where he became the owner of an excellent farm of 120 acres and where his last days were spent. To him and his wife were born four children, Mrs. Woehrmyer having two sisters, Mary and Anna, and a brother, John Fortman.

HENRY ELLERMAN, proprietor of an excellent farm in the western part of German township (in section 7 of that township), about two miles and a half west of New Bremen, and long regarded as one of the most substantial farmers of that neighborhood, was born in German township and has lived there all his life, a period of nearly eighty years. He thus has been a witness to and a participant in the amazing development that has taken place thereabout since the pioneer period, for he was there even before Auglaize county had acquired a separate civic identity, when he was born, German township having been included within the confines of Mercer county. Mr. Ellerman was born on April 21, 1843, and is a son of Gerhart Henry and Anna Marie Ellerman, both natives of Germany, who were among the pioneers of German township. Gerhart Henry Ellerman came to this country in the days of his young manhood, about 1832, and for some time thereafter prospected around in Indiana and Illinois. He then came over into Ohio and put in his lot with that of the considerable settlement that had been effected in the New Bremen neighborhood prior to the coming of the canal and when work on the canal was begun was for some time engaged in the labors incident to that undertaking. With the money earned by his labors on the canal he bought a small farm out west of New Bremen in German township and there established his home, continuing to live there the remainder of his life, one of the useful and influential pioneers of that neighborhood. He was a good farmer and as he cleared and developed his land continued to add to his holdings until he became the owner of 200 acres. He and his wife were the parents of four children, two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Chris Ellerman. Reared on the pioneer farm in German township, Henry Ellerman received such schooling as the somewhat primitive schools of that time and place afforded and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in the ways of practical farming. Upon his marriage his father presented him with a tract of eighty-nine acres of uncleared timber land in the northeast quarter of section 7 of his home township, where he established his home and ever since has resided. He cleared and drained that place, made a good farm out of it and by subsequent purchase added to his holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of 217 acres, all in one body, and has long had one of the model farm plants in that part of the county. Mr. Ellerman has two sets of buildings on his place and everything is "shipshape." Of recent years he has, of course, been living somewhat retired from the more active

labors of the farm, but continues to keep a close supervisory eye over the operations of the farm and keeps right up-to-date on changing and improved methods of agriculture. The Ellermans have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1, out of New Bremen and are quite comfortably situated. Henry Ellerman married Anna Mary Althoff, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, a daughter of Henry and Mary (Kramer) Althoff, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union four children have been born, Elizabeth, John, William and Mary, two of whom, Elizabeth and William, are married. William Ellerman married Emma Hardwig and Elizabeth Ellerman married William Schelper. The Ellermans are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen and Henry Ellerman has served the congregation of that church as president of the board of trustees of the church and as a deacon of the church. He is a Democrat and has rendered public service as road supervisor in his district and for six years was director of the school in his district. Mr. Ellerman has seen some amazing changes in manners and methods hereabout since the days of his boyhood and has many interesting stories to tell regarding incidents of pioneer days and of the picturesque scenes incident to the coming and going of canal traffic. He has developed his farm from a woodland swamp to a magnificent expanse of well tilled fields and rightly feels that he has done well.

GEORGE KAECK, who died at his home southwest of Freyburg four years ago at the age of seventy-six years, was born on the farm on which his last days were spent and had lived there all his life, one of the best known men in that community. Mr. Kaeck was born on October 25, 1842, almost six years before the formal organization of Auglaize county, and was a son of John and Elizabeth (Rohrbacher) Kaeck, pioneers of the Freyburg neighborhood, who had settled there in section 22 of Pusheta township not long after the lands had been opened to settlement following the departure of the Indians from this region in 1832. George Kaeck was reared on that pioneer farm, becoming a practical farmer, and after his marriage established his home there. Upon his father's death he acquired the home farm, an excellent tract of 100 acres, and continued to make his home there, engaged in farming the remainder of his life, his death occurring on December 11, 1918, and his widow survives him, continuing to make her home on the place, now operated in her behalf by her son, George Kaeck, Jr. It was on November 9, 1865, that the senior George Kaeck, then twenty-three years of age, was united in marriage to Sophia Siebold, and to that union were born eleven children, all of whom are living save two (Elizabeth and Louis), the others being Eliza, Franie, Rosa, Anna, Carrie, Lucinda, Chris, George and John, all of whom received their schooling in the Mentz school (dis-

trict No. 4) at the cross roads in the southeast corner of section 16, just east of the west branch of Pusheta creek. The mother of these children, Sophia (Siebold) Kaeck, is a daughter of Adam and Franie (Ziegenbush) Siebold, natives of Germany, who came with their family to America in 1854 and located at Ft. Wayne, Ind., where they established their home and spent the remainder of their lives. The junior George Kaeck, who is now farming the home place in his mother's behalf, finished his schooling in the Mentz school and when eighteen years of age began to make a full "hand" on the farm. He continued until 1909, when he began working in the blacksmith shop of his brother, Chris Kaeck, at Freyburg, and was thus engaged until 1914, when he returned to the farm and about one year later took over the management of the same an account of his father's sickness, and has been thus engaged since that time, carrying on his operations in up-to-date fashion, sharing in the profits of the farm. Mr. Kaeck is a member of the Swabian Society of Wapakoneta. In his political allegiance he holds to the Democratic party. The Kaecks are members of the German Lutheran church at Wapakoneta. The family is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 8, out of Wapakoneta.

WILLIAM DUHME, postmaster and merchant at New Knoxville, and for years one of the leading citizens of that well-ordered village, is a European by birth, but has been a resident of this country and of Auglaize county since he was five years of age. Mr. Duhme was born on July 4, 1868, near the city of Osnabruck, the chief town of the territory of that name in the former kingdom of Hanover and the third commercial city of Hanover (incorporated with Prussia in 1866), and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Kuhlman) Duhme, also Hanoverians, who in 1873 came with their family to this country and proceeded on out into Ohio and settled at New Knoxville, where they established their home and spent the remainder of their lives. Henry Duhme and his wife were the parents of four children, of whom two are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Elizabeth. Having been but a child when he came to this county with his parents in 1873, William Duhme grew up at New Knoxville and his schooling was received in the schools of that village. For several years as a young man he was employed in the plant of the Walnut Grove creamery and then took employment as a clerk in the general store of Herman Kuhlman at New Knoxville, where he acquired the taste for mercantile pursuits which ever since has kept him engaged along that line. Not long after becoming employed in the Kuhlman store Mr. Duhme decided to engage in business on his own account, and with this end in view opened a store at New Knoxville, and has ever since been thus engaged, one of the veteran merchants of the town. He carries a general line of mer-

Wm H Dulme

chandise adapted to the needs of his trade area, this including groceries, queensware, hardware, paints and the like, and also manages the local buying station of the White Mountain Creamery Company. On November 26, 1897, William McKinley then being President of the United States, Mr. Duhme was commissioned postmaster of New Knoxville, and he ever since has held that responsible position, his tenure of office thus covering a period of more than twenty-five years, which is certainly a notable record. Mr. Duhme has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and has rendered further public service as a member of the New Knoxville town council and as a member of the school board. He and his family are members of the German Reformed church. William Duhme has been twice married. His first wife, Wilhelmina Lutterbein, a daughter of Henry Lutterbein, and a member of one of the old families of the New Knoxville settlement, died leaving three children, Raymond, Edna and Bertha. Mr. Duhme later married Lena Hinzie, and to this latter union one child has been born, a daughter, Edith. Bertha Duhme married August Prueter and has three children, Earl, Naomi and Paul.

WILLIAM SCHOWE, proprietor of what might be regarded as "an ideal forty-acre farm" southwest of New Bremen in German township and recognized as one of the most progressive "intensive" farmers in that neighborhood, was born on that farm on April 18, 1882, and is a son of August and Rosena (Donneberg) Schowe, both of whom also were born in German township, members of pioneer families there. August Schowe, who is now living retired at New Bremen, is a son of William Schowe and wife, natives of Germany, who came to this country and settled in the New Bremen neighborhood in pioneer days, establishing their home on the farm on which their grandson, William Schowe, is now living, where they spent the remainder of their lives, earnest pioneers of that section. On that farm August Showe grew to manhood and after his marriage remained there, presently coming into possession of the place, until his retirement and removal to New Bremen, where he is now living. To him and his wife were born two children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Anna. Reared on the home farm, William Schowe received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood was a helpful factor in the labors of developing and improving the home place. After his marriage he rented the farm from his father and continued to make his home there. He presently bought the place and since then has done much to improve and develop it, having now an admirable farm plant. Mr. Schowe gives considerable attention to the raising of pure bred hogs, feeds the grain he raises, and is doing well. William Schowe married Fredonia Brandt, daughter of William Brandt, and to this union

two children have been born, William and Wilma, both of whom are in school. The Schowes have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Minster. Mr. and Mrs. Schowe are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen and are Democrats. Mr. Schowe formerly was a deacon in the church. He has long given his earnest attention to local political affairs and is now a member of the county Democratic central committee.

HERMAN KATTERHEINRICH, one of the best known farmers of Auglaize county and the proprietor of a well kept place in the New Knoxville neighborhood in Washington township, was born in that township and has lived there all his life, a period of more than seventy years. Mr. Katterheinrich was born on a pioneer farm just east of New Knoxville on July 12, 1850, and is a son of William and Christina (Bierbaum) Katterheinrich, natives of Germany, who were married in their home country and shortly afterward came to America and proceeded on out here into western Ohio and became pioneers of the New Knoxville neighborhood, thus having been residents there when Auglaize county was erected in 1848. William Katterheinrich was a maker of wooden shoes in his native land, but when he came here his thoughts turned to land and he became a farmer, establishing his home on an uncleared tract of eighty acres just east of New Knoxville, the east half of the northeast quarter of section 29 of Washington township, which then was included within the confines of Allen county, a mile southwest of the southwest corner of the old Wapakoneta Indian reservation line. He built a cabin on that place and settled down to clear it and make a farm out of it, meantime occupying such leisure as came to him in making wooden shoes for such of the old-country folk thereabout as still clung to the custom of wearing pattens—and it is recalled that for years during the settlement period in that section of the county many continued to wear wooden shoes. William Katterheinrich eventually made a good farm out of his place and took in more land as his affairs prospered so that he came to be recognized as one of the substantial and influential men of that community, and on that place he and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of five children, two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Fredericka. Reared on the home farm east of New Knoxville, Herman Katterheinrich received his schooling in the village schools and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to farming, this excepting a period of some years during the days of his young manhood when he was employed as a carpenter. After his marriage he lived on a farm in Moulton township for about four years then settled down on a farm of fifty acres which he had bought before marriage and has since resided there, a period of more than forty-five years. Not a foot of this land had been cleared or

improved when Mr. Katterheinrich established his home there, and the task of clearing and developing the place thus fell to him, but it was not long until he had a productive farm and in all the years since he has maintained the improvements until now he has an excellent farm plant. In addition to this place he owns a tract of seventeen acres in another part of the township. Mr. Katterheinrich is a Republican and for five years served his district as supervisor of highways. He and his wife are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville and have ever taken an active interest in the affairs of that congregation. Herman Katterheinrich married Sophia Schroer, a daughter of Herman and Sophia (Weirwille) Schroer, also members of pioneer families in this county and further reference to which families is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union have been born six children, Anna (deceased), Flora, George H. (deceased), Matilda and Otto (deceased). Flora Katterhienrich married Chris Schroer and has had five children, Alvin, Olga, Francis, Lawrence, Marion and Elmer (deceased). The late George H. Katterheinrich, who died in January, 1922, while serving as treasurer of Auglaize county, had married Ida Schultz and was the father of two children, Harold and Marcella. The Katterheinrich home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys. Mr. Katterheinrich has been a witness to the development of that section of the county since pioneer days and in that development has ever taken a useful part.

HERMAN J. SCHULTZ, one of the progressive and energetic farmers of Washington township and proprietor of a well kept place on rural mail route No. 2 out of Wapakoneta, has been a resident of this country less than twenty years, but during that time has become a thoroughgoing citizen of this country of his adoption and self-determination. Mr. Schultz was born in southeastern Germany on October 30, 1881, and is a son of John and Henrietta (Jakel) Schultz, both of whom also were born in that country, where their lives were spent, and the former of whom was a stonemason by trade. John Schultz and his wife were the parents of six children, of whom two are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Gustav. Reared in his native land, Herman J. Schultz remained there until he was in his twenty-fifth year when, in 1905, he came to America, landing at the port of New York, and proceeded immediately out here into western Ohio and located in Auglaize county. Upon his arrival here he secured employment as a farm hand in Washington township and was thus engaged there until his marriage two or three years later, when he began farming for himself on the farm on which he is now living and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Schultz has a well improved farm of ninety acres and is doing well in his operations. Since taking possession of

this place he has made numerous improvements on the place and has a well equipped farm plant, this equipment including an individual electric light plant. It was on January 23, 1908, that Herman J. Schultz was united in marriage to Emma Aufderhart, who was born in Washington township, daughter of William and Mary (Bruney) Aufderhart, and to this union have been born five children, four of whom, Walter, Herta, Marta and Elmer, are living. Walter Schultz is now a student in Cleardale school and the other children are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Schultz are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville. They have a pleasant home and take a proper part in the general social activities of the community in which they live. In his political views Mr. Schultz is an "independent."

HENRY W. EVERSMAN, of New Knoxville, former manager of the plant of the Auglaize Tile Company of that place, formerly engaged in the retail meat business there and a substantial landowner of this county and former farmer, now living practically retired, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has lived in this state all his life. Mr. Eversman was born on a farm in Van Buren township, in the neighboring county of Shelby, December 24, 1866, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Wierwille) Eversman, both of whom were born in Germany and had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the latter having been about fifteen years of age when she came here, a member of the well known Wierwille family, among the pioneers of the New Knoxville neighborhood. William Eversman was five years of age when he came here with his parents, Frederick Eversman and wife, the family settling on an uncleared woodland farm in Van Buren township, south of New Knoxville, in Shelby county. There he grew to manhood and it was in that same neighborhood that after his marriage he established his home on a farm, ninety acres of the old home place, and on that place he continued to make his home until his retirement and removal to New Knoxville, where his last days were spent. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, seven of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Anna and Elizabeth, and four brothers, Benjamin, Louis, Ernest and Herman. Reared on the home farm in Van Buren township, Henry W. Eversman received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and continued farming with his father until the time of his marriage, when he rented the place from his father and started in farming on his own account. Four years later he moved up into Auglaize county and rented a sixty-acre farm in Washington township and there established his home. Six years later he bought that farm and continued to farm the place until in 1908, when he became one of the organizers of the Auglaize Tile Company of New Knoxville, was made manager of that concern and moved to the village. For four years, Mr. Eversman continued

engaged in the tile business and then he sold his interest in the company and bought the local meat market, which in association with his elder son he continued to operate until he sold his interest in 1917. It was in that year that he erected his present attractive and modern dwelling house at New Knoxville and he has since been living there practically retired from the active labors of life, though giving a good deal of personal attention to his old home farm, and is in a position to "take things easy," as the saying goes. Henry W. Eversman married Caroline Lutterbeck, daughter of W. H. and Elizabeth Lutterbeck of New Knoxville, and to this union five children have been born, three of whom are living, namely: Ferd, now living at Madison, S. D., who married Zella Fledderjohann and has one child, a daughter, Jeannette; Julius, who married Selma Kuhlman and is now living at Lima, and Sylvanus Eversman, now deputy county treasurer of Auglaize county. Mr. and Mrs. Eversman are Republicans and are members of the Reformed church of New Knoxville, the congregation of which Mr. Eversman now is serving as a trustee, a member of the committee engaged in the remodeling of the church and as a member of the church council.

IRA BARBER, one of Salem township's well known and substantial farmers and landowners and proprietor of an excellent farm in the southwestern part of the township, where he has become well established as a successful agriculturist, was born on that place, a part of the old Barber farm, and has resided there all his life. Mr. Barber was born on August 26, 1871, and is a son of Austin and Elizabeth (Hamilton) Barber, who in their generation were among the best known residents of that section of the county and of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Austin Barber was a Kentuckian by birth, but as a young man came up into Ohio and after his marriage established his home on a farm in the vicinity of Mendon, in the neighboring county of Mercer, where he made his home until in 1858, when he came over into Auglaize county and bought a tract of 320 acres, the southwest quarter of section 32 and the northwest quarter of section 5 of Salem township, and on this place settled down to the stern task of clearing and making a farm, eventually getting 200 acres of the place cleared and under cultivation, and there he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1898. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom five are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Dora, and three brothers, Abram, Arthur and Walter Barber. Reared on the home farm in Salem township, Ira Barber received his schooling in the Barber school, so named because it stood at the cross roads intersecting his father's farm, and was from the days of his boyhood helpful in the difficult task of clearing and making a farm. He married when twenty-one years of age and settled down on an

"eighty" of the home place, which he bought, and has since made his home there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. To this eighty he later added by purchase an adjacent tract of forty acres, also a part of the old home place, and thus now has a fine farm of 120 acres, which he has improved in admirable fashion and on which he is carrying on his operations in accordance with modern methods and is doing well. It was on February 23, 1893, that Ira Barber was united in marriage to Mildred A. Hawkins, who was born in the neighboring county of Mercer, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Leah Marie, who married Joseph Murlin, of Mercer county. The Barbers have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys. Mr. and Mrs. Barber are Republicans and are members of the Fairview Presbyterian church, of the congregation of which Mr. Barber has been an elder for the past twenty years.

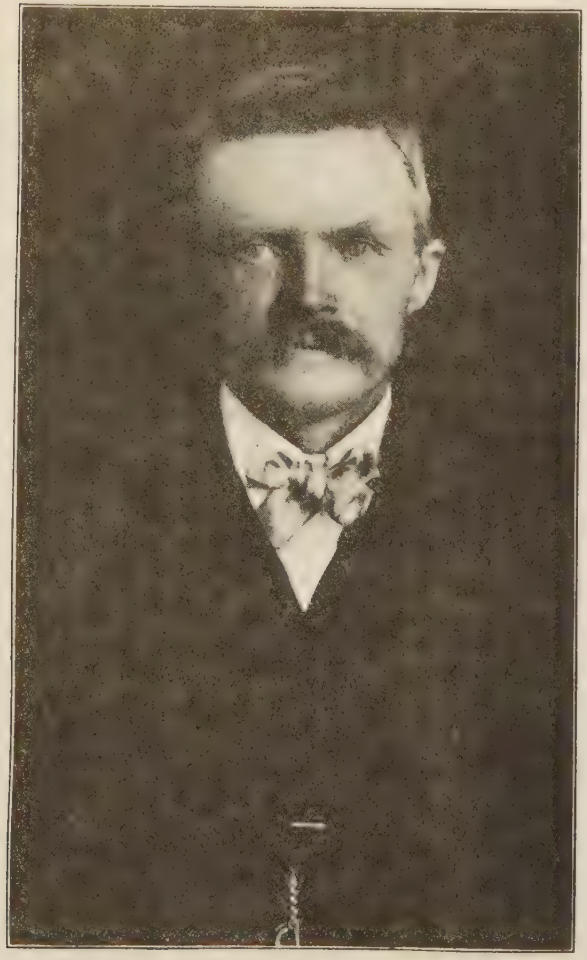
WILLIAM MONTAGUE, a substantial farmer and landowner of Auglaize county, who died at his home in Noble township in the fall of 1916, and whose widow is still living there, had been a resident of this county for more than three score years and at his passing left a good memory. Mr. Montague was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, March 1, 1850, and was two years of age when his parents, Anderson and Ellen (Sullivan) Montague, came to Auglaize county and established their home on a farm along the canal in the east half of the southwest quarter of section 12 of Noble township, becoming useful and influential pioneers of that section of the county. On that pioneer farm William Montague grew to manhood. He received his schooling in the somewhat primitive schools of that time and place and early became employed as a boatman on the canal, a vocation he followed for twelve years, or until after his marriage, when he rented a farm and entered upon his career as a farmer. For twenty years he farmed as a renter, and then he bought the farm of seventy-five acres on which his widow is now living in Noble township, and on this latter place spent the remainder of his life, actively engaged in farming, his death occurring on September 1, 1916, he then being in the sixty-seventh year of his age. Mr. Montague was a Democrat, as is his widow, and had ever taken an interested part in local civic affairs, but had not been a seeker after public office. It was in 1877 that William Montague was united in marriage to Mary Kelly, who was born in the neighboring county of Logan, and who was but two years of age when she came to Auglaize county with her parents, the Kelly family locating on a farm in Moulton township, where she grew to womanhood and where she was married. To that union were born four children, Bert, Sarepta, Charles and Ralph, all of whom are married and have children of their own, Mrs. Montague having eight grandchildren, in all of whom she takes

much pride and delight. Bert Montague married Edna Brewer and has one child, Algie. Sarepta Montague married Alva Crolius and has two children, Gladys and Carl. Charles Montague married Flora Hertenstein and has three children, Gerald, Bernard and Elston, and Ralph Montague married Lena Hertenstein and has two children, Mary and Irene. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Montague has continued to make her home on the farm, the management of which remains in her capable hands. She has a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys and is quite comfortably situated. Mr. Montague was a member of the Walnut Grove Methodist Episcopal church, and his widow is a Catholic.

WALTER B. SCOTT, a well-known general contractor at Wapakoneta, who formerly and for years also was well known as a school teacher in this county, was born on a farm in Logan township, this county, April 10, 1864, and is a son of Walter W. and Sarah Jane (Bryan) Scott, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. The late Walter W. Scott, whose last days were spent at Wapakoneta, was a Pennsylvanian by birth. He was reared in the old Keystone state and remained there until he had reached manhood's estate, when he came to Ohio and located in Auglaize county. He presently bought a small farm northwest of Buckland, in Logan township, and after his marriage established his home there. On that farm he lived until after the death of his wife, when he retired from the farm and moved to Wapakoneta, where he spent the remainder of his life. To him and his wife were born seven children, four of whom are still living. Walter B. Scott was reared on that farm in the Buckland neighborhood and his schooling was completed in a private school at Coldwater, in the normal school at Ft. Recovery, and in the state normal school at Ada, these several courses being taken in preparation to teaching, and for seven or eight years he was engaged as a teacher in the schools of this county and Mercer county. During the height of the oil "boom" Mr. Scott became connected with the work of development that for so long was one of the most interesting fields of such development, over in the Montpelier (Ind.) oil field, and after the peak of that development began to decline became engaged in the carpenter contracting line at Wapakoneta, and has since been thus engaged, a general contractor, and has long been firmly established in the industrial life of that city and of the community at large, one of the best known contractors hereabout. Mr. Scott is a Republican and is a member of the local tent of the Knights of the Maccabees. In 1891 Walter B. Scott was united in marriage to Emma Yaney, daughter of William and Ann (VanGardon) Yaney, of Mercer county, and to this union two children have been born, daughters both, Mrs. May Aukerman, wife of L. E. Aukerman, who

has one child, Harold Scott Aukerman, and Mrs. Pauline Coffman, widow of Harry Coffman, who has one child, Chalmer. Mr. and Mrs. Scott have a pleasant home at 16 Glynwood street, Wapakoneta.

WILLIAM H. HABERKAMP, a former trustee of Washington township, present ditch supervisor for that township and one of the best known and most substantial farmers and landowners of that township, now living retired on his well kept place on Center creek, just northeast of New Knoxville, was born in a log cabin on that place and has long been the owner of the place, the third in direct line of the Haberkamps who have lived on that land, beginning with the original entry from the Government made by his grandfather, William Haberkamp, back in the days of the settlement of these lands when this section, of what is now Auglaize county, was included in Allen county. Mr. Haberkamp was born on September 20, 1856, and is a son of Herman H. and Sophia (Peterjohann) Haberkamp, natives of Germany, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth and had grown up in the New Knoxville neighborhood, where the Haberkamps and the Peterjohanns had settled upon their arrival here back in pioneer days. Herman H. Haberkamp, a son of William Haberkamp, the pioneer above mentioned, grew to manhood on the woodland farm his father had entered from the Government there in section 20, less than a mile northeast of New Knoxville, and after his marriage, established his home there and presently became the owner of the place, a fine farm of 160 acres, on which he spent his last days. He and his wife were the parents of six children, four of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mary and Christina, and a brother, August Haberkamp. Reared on the old home farm, where he is now living, William H. Haberkamp received his schooling in the nearby New Knoxville schools and when a young man learned the carpenter trade, a vocation which he followed for about eight years, or until his marriage, when he bought a farm of eighty acres down over the line in Shelby county and for three years made his home there. He then, in 1884, sold that place and returned to Auglaize county, buying the old home place of 160 acres, just northeast of New Knoxville, and has since lived there. Since taking possession of this place, Mr. Haberkamp has made numerous and extensive improvements on the place and now has an admirable farm plant. Some time ago, for the convenience of one of his neighbors, he sold off a small tract of this place and now has 146 acres. In addition to his general farming he has long made considerable of a specialty of breeding pure bred Duroc Jersey hogs and in his operations has done well. Mr. Haberkamp is a Republican and has long been looked upon as one of the leaders in civic affairs in his home township. He has served as a member



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM H. HABERKAMP

of the board of trustees for Washington township and is now serving as supervisor of ditches in that township. He was one of the organizers of the New Knoxville Telephone Company. He and his family are members of the First Reformed church at New Knoxville and he has served the congregation of that church as a trustee and as a deacon. It was in 1882 that William H. Haberkamp was united in marriage to Magdalena Lammers, also a member of one of the old families of Washington township, and to this union nine children were born. Of these, seven are living—Herman, Alvina, Sarah, Benjamin, Henry, Ella and Julius, all of whom are married save the latter. Herman Haberkamp married Amanda Wierwille and has five children, Wilfred, Earl, Vernon, Margaret and Paul. Alvina Haberkamp married Herman Henchen and has three children, Leonard, Elmer and Reuben. Sarah Haberkamp married George Katterheinrich and has three children, Alfred, Willis and Rachel. Benjamin Haberkamp married Bertha Wierwille. The Rev. Henry Haberkamp married Elizabeth Holtkamp and has two children, Elizabeth and Lena Louise, and Ella Haberkamp married Julius Holtkamp. Mrs. Magdalena Haberkamp, who died on November 24, 1922, at the age of sixty-one years, seven months and eleven days, was born on a farm in the southwest quarter of section 28 of Washington township, on the Shelby county line, about a mile southeast of New Knoxville, and was a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Wierwille) Lammers, both natives of Germany, who had come to this country wtih their respective parents in the days of their youth and had grown up and were married in this county, of which the Lammers and the Wierwilles were early settlers. Henry Lammers was the owner of an excellent farm of 120 acres and he and his wife were the parents of eight children, all of whom are living, save two, Mrs. Haberkamp being survived by three sisters, Sophia, Fredericka and Anna, and three brothers, Herman, Ernest and Louis Lammers. The Haberkamp home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 4 out of St. Marys.

WILLIAM G. BLANK, one of the well-known farmers of Union township, proprietor of a well-kept farm in section 1 of that township, is a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, his grandfather, John Blank, having been one of the early settlers in the Uniopolis neighborhood. John Blank, the pioneer, died many years ago. One of his sons, Josiah Blank, grew up there at Uniopolis and married Olive Focht, also a member of one of the pioneer families of the Uniopolis neighborhood. Josiah Blank became engaged in merchandising, owner of a store at Paulding Center, and was thus engaged at the time of his death in 1876, leaving his widow with four children, three sons, William G., John A. and Edwin, and a daughter, Rachel, now deceased. William G. Blank was born at

Paulding Center on April 14, 1875, and was thus but a babe when his father died. His mother married again and he thus grew up on his stepfather's farm, becoming well trained in the ways of farming, a vocation he ever has followed, now the owner of a well-improved farm of eighty-one acres, besides which he is farming an adjoining "forty" which belongs to his father-in-law. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Blank gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. On November 7, 1908, William G. Blank was united in marriage to Nancy Ella Harrod, who was born in this county, daughter of Felix and Nancy (Ferguson) Harrod, and to this union have been born five children, Mary, Minor, Robert, Harold and Harry. The Blanks have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 9 out of Lima. Mr. and Mrs. Blank are Republicans. Their three eldest children are attending school at Waynesfield.

FREDRICK KANTNER, a well known bachelor farmer of Pusheta township, living on the old Kantner place west of Quaker Run, about midway between Wapakoneta and Freyburg, was born on that place and has lived there all his life, a period of fifty-five years and more. Mr. Kantner was born on May 27, 1867, and is a son of William and Parmelia (Schuler) Kantner, the latter of whom was born in Licking county, this state, and was about ten years of age when she came to this county with her parents, the Schuler family settling in Pusheta township, where she grew to womanhood and was married. The late William Kantner, a veteran of the Civil war, was born in Pusheta township, in the neighborhood of where his last days were spent, his parents, George and Leah (Oswalt) Kantner, having been among the pioneers of that section of the county, the Kantners having entered their land there in section 3 of Pusheta township in 1832, the year in which the Indians left this country. William Kantner grew up to the life of the pioneer farm and was living there when the Civil war broke out. On October 15, 1864, he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front with Company I of the 33d regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served until his honorable discharge on July 12, 1865, the war then being over. Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. Kantner returned to the home farm, and following his marriage not long afterward established himself on the farm where his son, Fredrick, is now living, and there spent the remainder of his life, an energetic and successful farmer. He died on that place on December 22, 1906, and his widow survived him for nearly fifteen years, her death occurring on December 16, 1921. They were the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Libbie, who on July 12, 1921, was married to Joseph Goedde, who was born and reared in St. Louis, Mo. Fredrick Kantner was reared on the old home farm and re-

ceived his schooling in the old Kelly school house (district No. 5), in the southwest corner of section 3. From the days of his boyhood he was attentive to the affairs of the farm, and as he grew to manhood he remained on the home place, farming with his father, and since the latter's death has been in charge, carrying on in his mother's behalf until her death, and now representing also his sister's interest in the place, both co-operating in the management of the farm, which is well improved and profitably cultivated, the family having a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 5 out of Wapakoneta. Mr. Kantner and his sister are members of the English Lutheran church at Wapakoneta and are Republicans. It is narrated that when George Kantner, the pioneer, and his family settled there in section 3 of Pusheta township, on lands that had been occupied by followers of the Indian chief, Pusheta, there still were several of the old Indian cabins standing on the place, and that in these were several barrels of maple sugar that had been made by the aboriginals and which was in a good state of preservation. George Kantner was but forty-five years of age when he died, leaving his wife and nine children. His widow remained on the farm and kept her family together, remaining there until in old age, when she moved to Wapakoneta, where her last days were spent.

GUSTAVE BERTKE, a widely known thresherman and a substantial farmer and landowner of German township, proprietor of a well-improved farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of New Bremen, was born in German township on July 17, 1876, and is a son of Rudolph and Caroline (Bokemann) Bertke, both of whom were born in Germany. The late Rudolph Bertke, formerly one of the substantial landowners of German township and also owner of lands over in Mercer county, came to this country in the days of his young manhood with nothing but a stout heart and willing hands to give him a start in the land in which he had elected to make his home. He located in the New Bremen neighborhood and there began working as a farm hand. After his marriage he bought a farm in the northwestern corner of German township (section 6) and there established his home. He was a good farmer and as his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of 220 acres of land, including a farm over in the adjoining county of Mercer, and on this farm spent his last days. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Louise and Ella, and three brothers, Henry, Fred and Edward Bertke. Reared on the home farm in section 6 of German township, Gustave Bertke received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in the ways of practical farming. After his marriage he rented a farm over in Mercer county and there made his home until

he bought his present farm of ninety-five acres in German township, where he has since resided and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of that farm Mr. Bertke has made extensive improvements on the place and now has a well-equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming, he has for the past seventeen years operated a threshing rig throughout his district, and also runs a clover huller and a corn shredder for the convenience of his neighboring farmer friends. Gustave Bertke married Ida Kuenning, who was born in St. Marys township, daughter of Fred and Anna (Wissmann) Kuenning, members of old families there, and to this union have been born five children, Leta, Lorma, Roy, Verne and Lilas. The Bertkes are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen, and Mr. Bertke formerly was a deacon in the church. He is a Republican and for eight years served as school director in his district.

IVAN RAUDABAUGH, general foreman of the plant of the St. Marys Wheel and Spoke Works Company of St. Marys, and for years one of the best known factors in the industrial life of that city, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of St. Marys since he was ten years of age. Mr. Raudabaugh was born in the neighboring county of Mercer on June 1, 1880, and is a son of Samuel J. and Hallie (Van Kirk) Raudabaugh, who have been residents of St. Marys for the past thirty years and more. Samuel J. Raudabaugh was born in Pennsylvania and was but a lad when he came to Ohio with his parents, the family settling in Van Wert county, where he grew to manhood. He "grew up" to the timber business during the days when "timber was king" in northwestern Ohio, and was thus engaged in Van Wert and Mercer counties until 1890, when he made his home at St. Marys, where he is now engaged as a timber buyer for the Crane & MacMahon concern (wheel works). To him and his wife four children have been born, two of whom—Harry M. and Orlando—are deceased, the survivors being the subject of this sketch and his brother, Clarence Raudabaugh. Ivan Raudabaugh was ten years of age when his parents moved from Mercer county to St. Marys, and he grew to manhood at St. Marys, receiving his schooling in the schools of that city. He married at the age of nineteen, being then employed in the plant of the wheel and spoke works, and has ever since been in the employ of that concern, during this period of nearly twenty-five years having become familiar with all departments of the great plant's operations. In 1912 Mr. Raudabaugh was made general foreman of the plant and employment manager of the concern, and has since occupied that position, which naturally carries with it considerable responsibility. Mr. Raudabaugh is a Republican, a member of the local lodges of the Knights of Pythias and of the Woodmen of the

World, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. Ivan Raudabaugh has been twice married. In 1899 he was united in marriage to Louetta Heusch, of St. Marys, who died on April 3, 1901, leaving one child, a son, Samuel F. On September 4, 1902, Mr. Raudabaugh married Ida Goodapple, who was born in Ripley county, Indiana, daughter of John and Mary Goodapple, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Sarah, born in 1917. Samuel F. Raudabaugh married Louise Clark, of Chicago, and has one child.

FLOYD L. HARDEN, one of the well-known farmers of the upper part of Union township and a substantial landowner in that part of the county, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county, the Hardens having been represented here for nearly ninety years, or thirteen years before Auglaize county was organized. Mr. Harden was born in a house in the immediate vicinity of the place on which he is now living on December 16, 1861, and is a son of Noah and Mary (Lusk) Harden, the latter of whom also was a member of one of the first families in Union township. The late Noah Harden was born in Knox county, this state, and was but three years of age when he came to this part of Ohio with his parents, John and Catherine Harden, the family settling on a woodland tract there along the creeks in section 10 of Union township. John Harden, the pioneer, was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and after his marriage had settled on a farm in Knox county, Ohio. When the new lands up here at the headwaters of the Auglaize were opened for settlement following the departure of the Indians, he became attracted to the possibilities of settlement here and entered a considerable tract of land in section 10 of Union township, in what then was Allen county. That was in 1835. He moved his family here and established his home on that place, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1845, he then having become the owner of several hundreds of acres of land in that vicinity. John Harden had eight children, and the Harden connection thus became a considerable one hereabout The site of John Harden's grave became the nucleus for the establishment of the Fairmount cemetery, his body having been the first buried there. Noah Harden grew to manhood on that pioneer farm, and out of the estate left by his father received eighty acres, on which he established his home after his marriage, later increasing this tract by the purchase of an adjoining tract of thirty-six acres, and on this farm of 116 acres carried on his operations until his death in 1912, he then being right around eighty years of age. Noah Harden was twice married. By his union with Mary Lusk he had two children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Anna. Mark Harden, a half-brother of these, died at the age of twenty years. Reared on the home farm in Union

township, Floyd L. Harden received his schooling in the neighborhood school (district No. 2, known as the Harden school), and from the days of his boyhood has been attentive to farming. He continued farming in association with his father until his marriage at the age of twenty-six years, when he bought a farm of eighty acres in Wayne township, and there made his home for five years, at the end of which time he sold that farm and bought sixty acres of the old home place in Union township, where he since has made his home and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of this place, Mr. Harden not only has made numerous substantial improvements in the way of modern equipment, but has increased his land holdings there until now he is the owner of a fine farm of 260 acres. It was on September 26, 1888, that Floyd L. Harden was united in marriage to Rebecca Jane Myers, who was born in the neighboring township of Wayne, daughter of George and Lydia (Williams) Myers, and to this union four children have been born, two sons and two daughters, Lehr, Foster F., Sarah Normal and Adena, all of whom are married. Lehr Harden married Alice Seiler and has one child, a daughter, Helen. Foster F. Harden married Audrey Lutz and has three children, Floyd P., Caroline and Kenneth E. Sarah Normal Harden married Rudolph Yoder and has two children, Floyd and Byron E., and Adena Harden married John Fox and has one child, a son, Earl. Mr. and Mrs. Harden are members of the Church of God at Waynesfield and are Democrats. The Harden home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis and has a well-established reputation for hospitality.

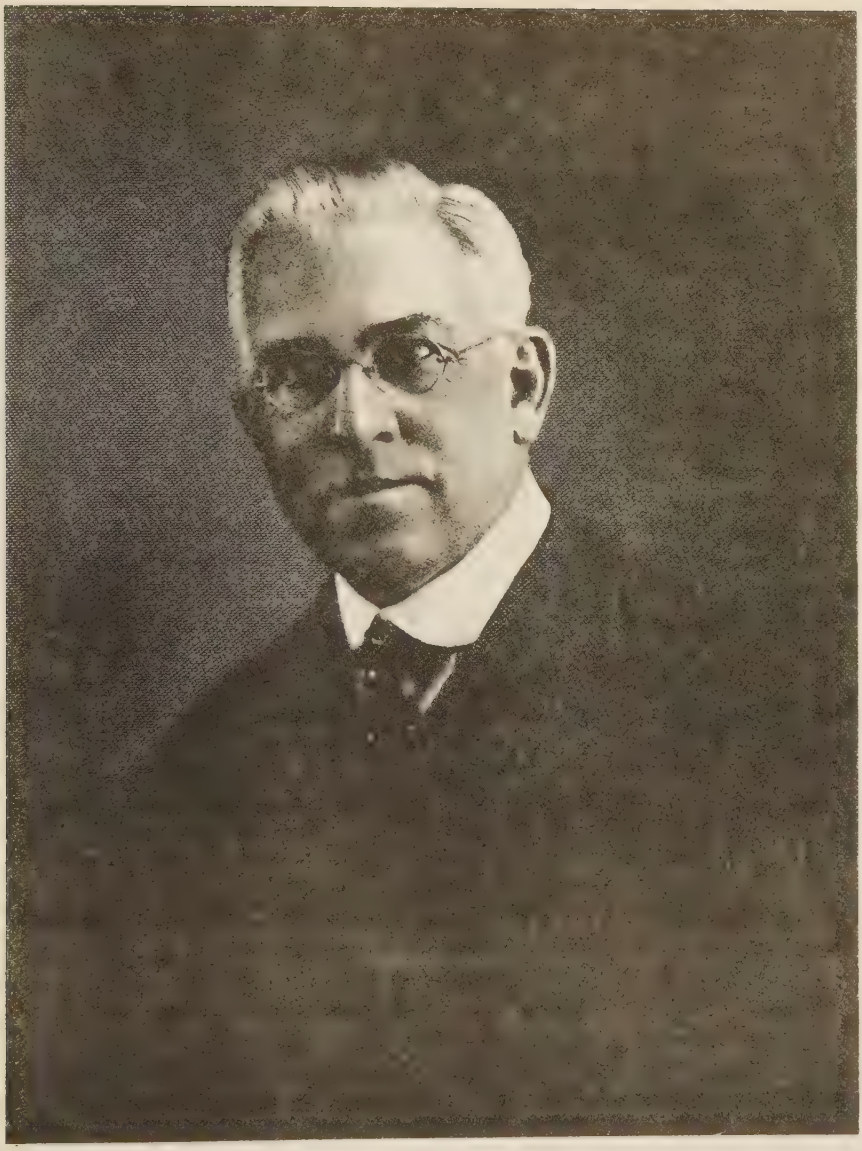
HENRY C. VALENTINE, a well-known farmer and landowner of Washington township, proprietor of a well-kept farm on rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Marys, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since he was six years of age. Mr. Valentine was born on a farm in Pickaway county on June 7, 1864, and is a son of Andrew and Ellen (Metzger) Valentine, both of whom were born in that same county, members of pioneer families there, and who later became residents of Auglaize county. It was in 1870 that Andrew Valentine disposed of his interests in Pickaway county and came up here into Auglaize county and bought a farm of fifty-four acres in Washington township, where he established his home and where his death occurred four years later, in 1874. His widow long survived him. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch and his two sisters, Phoebe and Elizabeth. As has been noted, Henry C. Valentine was but six years of age when he came here with his parents in 1870, and he was ten years of age when his father died, he thus early having been thrown pretty largely

on his own resources in the matter of a livelihood. He received his schooling in the schools of Washington township, and from the days of his boyhood was attentive to the affairs of the home farm, a helpful factor in improving and developing the same in his mother's behalf. After his marriage he began farming on his own account, renting a "forty" in his home township, and for three years made his home on that place. He then rented a farm of eighty acres in Pusheta township and there lived for eighteen years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm of sixty-eight acres in Washington township and has since made his home on this latter place, he and his family being quite comfortably situated. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Valentine has made numerous improvements and has a well-equipped farm plant. He gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. Henry C. Valentine married Callie E. Bambauer, daughter of Henry Bambauer, of this county, and to this union have been born five children, Elmer, Harry, Wilson, Lillie and Lucile, three of whom are married. Elmer Valentine married Mary Campbell and has one child, a son, Roger. Harry Valentine married Cecile Twelliger and has one child, a daughter, Helen Maxine, and Lillie Valentine married George Kreiger and has two children, Paul and Dale. Mr. and Mrs. Valentine are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Wapakoneta and in their political leanings are Democrats.

JOSEPH B. WHITNEY, one of Salem township's well-known farmers and landowners, proprietor of an excellent farm on the line between that township and Noble township, has been occupying that farm for the past twenty years and has become well established there as a progressive and successful agriculturist. Mr. Whitney was born in Darke county, this state, April 22, 1876, and is a son of David and Amanda (Hagerman) Whitney, both of whom also were born in Ohio. David Whitney was born in Darke county, a member of one of the pioneer families there, and was trained as a farmer in his youth. For some time after his marriage he continued to make his home in Darke county and then bought a farm in Mercer county and moved onto the same, spending there the remainder of his life. To him and his wife were born four children, all of whom are living save one daughter, Lucy, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Clara, and a brother, Glenn Whitney. Joseph B. Whitney was but four years of age when his parents moved from Darke county to their farm in Mercer county, and it was on this latter place that he grew to manhood. He received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and remained on the home farm, a valued assistant in the labors of developing the same, until his marriage at the age of twenty-six years, when he established his home on a farm which he had rented in Salem township, this county. For three years

thereafter Mr. Whitney was engaged there as a tenant farmer, and then he bought his present farm of 120 acres, a part of which is in Salem township, and the remainder in Noble township, and has ever since lived there, making a fine farm out of the place. Mr. Whitney has improved his farm in good shape and is carrying on his operations in up-to-date fashion. It was on November 7, 1902, that Joseph B. Whitney was united in marriage to Effie Lewis, who was born in Auglaize county, daughter of Charles and Amanda Lewis, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Ralph J. and Donald L. Whitney. The Whitneys have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys. Mr. and Mrs. Whitney are Republicans.

ALBERT HERZING, president of the St. Mary's Woolen Manufacturing Company, probably the leading industrial institution of St. Marys, is a native of this county. Mr. Herzing has for many years been one of the leading spirits of this town and is generally well known throughout the state as one of Ohio's men of affairs and is nationally well known as the manufacturer of one of the highest grade lines of blankets made in this country. He is president of the Auglaize County Health League and prominent in the civic, social and forward movements locally. Aside from a period of seven years, when he was connected with the Peoples Bank of Wapakoneta, Mr. Herzing has lived in St. Marys practically his entire life. He was born at St. Marys on October 16, 1859, son of Philip V. and Elise (Pauck) Herzing, both of whom were of European birth, the latter born in the Prussian province of Westphalia, in the village of Bielefeld, September 7, 1822. The late Philip Herzing, for many years one of the leading citizens of Auglaize county, was born at Wurzburg, in the Kingdom of Bavaria, October 8, 1808, and was descended from an old and distinguished Bavarian family, the Herzings having been granted a coat of arms, showing a crest of armor on a shield with hearts emblazoned, surmounted with wings of victory. No doubt this was granted anciently for distinguished military service. Philip Herzing was graduated from the University of Wurzburg and, like most of the German students of that time, became a proficient swordsman and was considered a master of the "foils." He was but a young man when there arose in Germany a very formidable, though secret, democratic movement. This was largely the forerunner of the climax that occurred in 1848, when many of the leaders of this movement were forced to flee to America —among these being Carl Schurz, the noted soldier and statesman, and Franz Siegel, who became a brilliant Union general. Among those who were active in the earlier democratic movement in Germany was Michael Dumbroff, who later became probate judge of Auglaize county. Michael Dumbroff at that time was courting Eva



A. Sterzing

Herzing, sister of Philip Herzing. Philip Herzing learned that this democratic movement had been discovered by agents of the Government and that the leaders were to be arrested, including Michael Dumbroff. He hastened to inform Dumbroff, who proposed that they flee the country, and shortly afterward young Herzing, Dumbroff and Herzing's sister Eva secretly departed for America on a sailing vessel. They landed at Portsmouth, N. H., where Michael Dumbroff and Eva Herzing were married. In leaving his native land Philip Herzing was forced to use the utmost strategy, as at that time he was employed in the customs service, and secured a leave of absence under a pretext. They came to Ohio direct from New Hampshire and Philip Herzing located at Cincinnati. Later, as the canal movement extended northward, the proposal being to extend the Miami canal to the Great Lakes, a number of Cincinnatians located in this county. Young Herzing came north and settled first at Wapakoneta, subsequently removing to Saint Marys. Not long after locating there, he established the Farina mills and for many years the Farina flour was celebrated throughout this region. He was one of the distinctive factors in the development of this community, and to his personal activity was due much of the distinction St. Marys gained at that early date. He spent the remainder of his life here, his death occurring here in 1883. Philip Herzing was elected a member of the state board of public works, serving for twelve consecutive years. This board had supervision over all state works, including the extension of the national highway, canals and other public improvements. At the time of Governor Allen's election, the entire Democratic ticket was elected with the exception of the candidate for the state board of works, which went to Philip Herzing, a Republican, the only one elected on the ticket. Philip Herzing's plurality at this election was twice that of Governor Allen, who led the Democratic ticket. Albert Herzing was schooled in the curriculum of applied study—where theories are either translated into facts or promptly discarded. This practical application began at the age of seventeen when Albert Herzing became employed in the woolen mills of St. Marys and at that age began to master the business he is now engaged in. His early schooling, supplemented with the delightful cultural influence of his home life, was obtained in the St. Marys schools. In 1877, Mr. Herzing left the woolen mills to accept a responsible position with his father in the flour mills. Three years later he became associated with the Peoples Bank of Wapakoneta, where he remained until in June, 1881. At this time there was a reorganization of the St. Marys woolen mills and he became a stockholder, becoming actively identified with the mills—thus returning to his "first love." He has devoted his major attention to the mills since that time and since 1912 has been presi-

dent of the concern. The blankets manufactured by this company are recognized leaders and enjoy a very discriminating patronage, many of the exclusive and leading hotels of the country using these blankets entirely, among these being the famous Statler hotels. Not only has Mr. Herzing been diligent in his own business and has thus been able to build up a great establishment on the canal at St. Marys, but he also has been attentive to all movements in the development of the best interests of his home town—in all philanthropic, community and social movements. To his activity much credit is due in the creation of the beautiful Memorial Park, he having given this movement his heartiest support, both moral and financial. This memorial—a beautiful and fitting tribute—is a practical expression of St. Marys' citizens to the memory of the boys who made the supreme sacrifice in the World war. When, in 1917, the Auglaize County Good Roads Federation was formed for the purpose of stimulating the growing sentiment in favor of modern and extensive road construction, Mr. Herzing was called on by this voluntary federation of leading citizens of the county to accept the presidency of the federation. In the summer of 1922, in conformity with a state-wide movement, the Auglaize County Health League was organized—representation including leading citizens of each township. Mr. Herzing was again called on to lead and was selected as president of this league. He had the reputation of getting things done—in other words, the ability to organize and to achieve, and he brought to these movements the same acumen that has made his own business highly successful. On March 6, 1882, Mr. Herzing was united in marriage to Fredericka Moser, daughter of John J. and Caroline S. (Bernhardt) Moser, of Wapakoneta. John J. Moser for many years conducted the well known retail jewelry store which he founded in Wapakoneta, now owned by his son, Emil Moser. To Albert Herzing and wife have been born four children, Helen, Norma, Wanda and Philip. Helen Herzing married Walter Meyer and has two children, Walter and Thomas. Norma Herzing married Clinton W. Clark and has two children, Clinton W. and Nancy. Wanda Herzing married Lowell P. Rieger and also has two children, James H. and Frederick. Philip Herzing married Ruth Herrington.

EMANUEL KANTNER, one of the well-known veteran farmers and landowners of Pusheta township and the proprietor of a well-improved farm lying west of Quaker Run, about two miles southeast of Wapakoneta, where he has lived for many years, was born in that township and is thus a member of one of the pioneer families in that part of the county. Mr. Kantner was born on December 26, 1848, the year in which Auglaize county was organized, and is a son of George and Lena (Oswold) Kantner, natives of Pennsylvania, who had come to this region with their respective parents in pioneer

days and were here married. George Kantner became a substantial farmer of Pusheta township, the owner of 240 acres in the neighborhood of where his son, Emanuel, now lives, and there spent his last days, his widow long surviving him. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom three are still living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, John and Isaac Kantner. Reared on the home farm in Pusheta township, Emanuel Kantner grew up thoroughly familiar with conditions which faced the pioneers of that section. He received his schooling in the old Keller school (district No. 5), in the southwest corner of section 3, and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in the ways of the farm. When he was about thirty years of age he and his widowed mother moved to Wapakoneta, where he became engaged in teaming, and there he remained until a short time after his marriage, when he and his brother, the late Samuel Kantner, bought the "eighty" on which Emanuel Kantner is now living, and the latter has ever since made his home there. The brothers farmed this place together for eight years, and then Emanuel Kantner bought his brother's interest in the farm and has since been farming it alone. He long ago replaced the old log house and stable which stood on the place when he went there by substantial buildings, a comfortable dwelling house and ample farm buildings, and has a well-equipped farm plant there on rural mail route No. 5 out of Wapakoneta. Mr. Kantner and his wife are members of the German Lutheran church at Wapakoneta and are Republicans. Emanuel Kantner has been twice married. In 1881 he was united in marriage to Minnie Strome, and to that union one child was born, a daughter, Isabella, who married Elmer Smeltzy, now living in Detroit, and has one child, a son, Elmer Jr. By a former marriage to Charles Ziegler, Mrs. Isabella Smeltzy had two children, Elzena and Koneta (deceased). Some time after the death of his first wife, Mr. Kantner, on April 16, 1891, married Ida Ziegler, of Wapakoneta, and to this union three sons have been born, Louis, Christian and Carl, the two latter of whom are at home carrying on the affairs of the farm in their father's behalf. Louis Kantner, who also is farming in Pusheta township, married Ida Dearinger and has four children, Verdean, Leona, Helen and Roy. Mrs. Ida Kantner was born at Wapakoneta and was reared there, a pupil in the old Third Ward (Williamson) school building the year that now historic building was opened for attendance. She is a daughter of Christian and Rosena (Schragle) Ziegler, natives of Germany, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the vessel on which the Zieglers sailed having taken eighty days to make the passage, and the vessel on which the Schragles sailed forty days. The two families located in Pennsylvania, where Christian Ziegler became a cooper. After his marriage he came

with his wife to Ohio and located at Wapakoneta, where he became established in his trade. He and his wife had six children, four of whom are still living, Mrs. Kantner having three sisters, Anna, Louise and Matilda.

WILLIAM SCHROER, a former trustee of Washington township and one of the best known farmers of that township, now living retired on his snug little farm on rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Marys, was born in Washington township, a member of one of the pioneer families of the New Knoxville neighborhood, and has lived there all his life, a period of more than seventy years. Mr. Schroer was born on October 6, 1851, and is a son of J. H. and Sophia (Haberkamp) Schroer, who were among the substantial pioneers of that neighborhood. Both were born in Germany and had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the Schroers and the Haberkamps becoming pioneers of the New Knoxville neighborhood. For several years after coming here, J. H. Schroer, then a well grown lad, spent his summers working in a brick yard at Cincinnati, giving his attention to the clearing work on his father's farm during the winters, and thus earned the money with which he bought a farm of his own, where he established his home after his marriage. He was a successful farmer, and with the land he bought and that inherited at the death of his father became the owner of 230 acres in Washington township and a man of influence and standing thereabout. He and his wife had eleven children, of whom three are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Sophia and Emma. Reared on the home farm in Washington township, William Schroer received his schooling in the local schools, and from the days of his boyhood was attentive to the affairs of the farm. After his marriage he rented a farm of 160 acres in Washington township, and on that place made his home for about eleven years, at the end of which time he bought the farm of thirty acres on which he is now living, in that same neighborhood, and has since made his home there, he and his family being comfortably situated. Mr. Schroer continued actively engaged in his farming operations until his retirement in the spring of 1922, and is now taking things somewhat easier than during the long years of his activity on the farm. He is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, having rendered public service as a township trustee and as a member of the school board. William Schroer married Dina Oelrich, a daughter of Henry Oelrich, and also a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, and to this union seven children have been born, six of whom are living, Cora, Anna, Richard, Lydia, Gilbert and Andrew, two of whom, Richard and Anna, are at home looking after the affairs of the home place in behalf of their parents. Cora Schroer married Henry Holt-

kamp and has five children, Gladys, Hilda, Esther, Lawrence and Ruth. Lydia Schroer married George Holtkamp, and the Rev. Gilbert Schroer married Cornelia Rodeheffer and is now serving as a missionary of the Reformed church in Japan. Mr. and Mrs. Schroer are members of the First Reformed church at New Knoxville and have for years given their earnest attention to church affairs.

HOWARD STILES, one of the well-known farmers and landowners in the upper part of Union township, was born in that township on March 17, 1884, and is a son of William and Mary T. (Harrod) Stiles, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here, and the latter of whom died on February 29, 1920. William Stiles, who is now living retired from the active labors of the farm, was born in Union township and is a son of Elias and Jane Stiles, who were pioneers of that township. Upon coming here Elias Stiles settled on a quarter section of land along Wrestle creek, the southwest quarter of section 4, in Union township, and became one of the substantial pioneers of that section. William Stiles grew up on that farm and after his marriage was engaged for some years in farming the home place. He then bought a tract of land in that neighborhood, later increased his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of 290 acres, and continued farming until his retirement, and is now living at Uniopolis. To him and his wife were born three children, one of whom (Cora D.) is deceased, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Donald B. Stiles. Reared on the farm, Howard Stiles received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in the ways of the farm. He continued actively engaged in the operations of the home farm until his marriage at the age of twenty-eight, when he began farming on his own account and bought a farm of 110 acres, the place where he is now living and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Stiles gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. In his political views he reserves the privilege to vote independently of party ties. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Uniopolis. On November 29, 1912, Howard Stiles was united in marriage to Eva G. Carter, who also was born in this county, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Robert and Ivan. The Stiles home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis. The first of the Stiles family to settle in what is now Auglaize county was Jonathan Stiles, a Vermonter, who came here in 1835 with his family and settled in Union township in what then was Allen county, but which became attached to the new county of Auglaize in 1848. His son, Elias Stiles, mentioned above, was the grandfather of Howard Stiles, the latter's sons thus representing the fifth generation of this family in this county.

CHARLES SCHMIDT, who is living on the old Schmidt farm two miles west of New Bremen, one of the well known and substantial farmers and landowners of that neighborhood, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. Mr. Schmidt was born on February 16, 1858, and is a son of Henry and Louise (Koch) Schmidt, both of whom were of European birth, natives of Germany, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their childhood and some time after their marriage had settled on the farm above referred to. The late Henry Schmidt's first home on coming to America was at Cincinnati. There he experienced "land hunger" and decided to become a farmer. With that end in view he came to this part of Ohio and became a member of the New Knoxville settlement, but not long afterward moved over into German township and bought an "eighty," the east half of the southwest quarter of section 8 of that township, two miles west of New Bremen, and there established his home. He got that place under cultivation and added to his holdings until he became the owner of 120 acres, and on that farm spent the remainder of his life. In addition to his farming he also was widely known as a veterinarian, and his services in the treatment of the ailments of the domestic animals of his neighbors were much appreciated in pioneer days. That was in the day before the science of the modern veterinary surgeon had become the highly specialized profession it now is, and the old-time "horse doctor" did not have the aids to practice now possessed by the professional veterinarian. Henry Schmidt and wife were the parents of twelve children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Julia, and three brothers, William, Henry and Benjamin Schmidt. Reared on the farm on which he was born, Charles Schmidt received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and from boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the farm. After his marriage he continued to make his home on the place, working in association with his father, and after his father's death took over the home place and has since resided there, though some time ago he sold a "forty" off the former tract of 120 acres and thus now has but the original "eighty" which his father bought upon settling there. Mr. Schmidt and his wife are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen, of which congregation he formerly was a deacon, and are Democrats. They have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of New Bremen. Charles Schmidt married Mrs. Augusta (Waesch) Gilberg, daughter of Karl Waesch and widow of Henry Gilberg, and to this union two children have been born, Karl and Herman, the former of whom married Lorma Schroeder. By her first marriage, Mrs. Schmidt is the mother of one child, a daughter, Emma Gilberg. Mrs. Schmidt was born in this county, and her parents, Karl and

Sophia Waesch, were born in Germany, where they were married. Not long after their marriage they came to America and shortly afterward settled at New Bremen, but presently moved to St. Marys township, where Karl Waesch became the owner of a forty-acre farm and where he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, six of whom are living, Mrs. Schmidt having two sisters, Louise and Sophia, and three brothers, Otto, William and Herman Waesch.

ABRAM H. BARBER, one of the trustees of Salem township and a well-known farmer and landowner of that township, was born on the place on which he is now living and has lived there all his life, his farm being a part of the tract his father had taken there in pioneer days. Mr. Barber was born on February 20, 1867, and is a son of Austin and Lucinda E. (Hamilton) Barber, the latter of whom also was born in Ohio, a daughter of the Hon. Justin Hamilton, a former member of the General Assembly of this state. The late Austin Barber was a Kentuckian by birth and was but a lad when he came to Ohio with his parents, Samuel Barber and wife, the family locating in Mercer county, where they established their home and where the pioneer Samuel Barber and his wife spent their last days, substantial farming people. Austin Barber grew to manhood on the home farm in Mercer county and was for some years engaged as a school teacher in that county. After his marriage he bought the home farm of 300 acres and continued to make his home there for some years, at the end of which time he sold that place and came over into Auglaize county and bought a tract of 320 acres in Salem township—the southwest quarter of section 32 and the northwest quarter of section 5—and there established his home in the then timber wilderness. He set about clearing the place and in time got 220 acres of it under cultivation and continued to make his home there until his retirement in 1888 and removal to Spencerville, where for four years thereafter he was engaged in the grocery business. His last days were spent at Spencerville, his death occurring there in 1898. To him and his wife were born eight children, five of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Dora, Arthur, Ira and Walter A. The deceased children of this family were Ella, Irene and Hannah. Reared on the home farm in Salem township, Abram H. Barber received his schooling in the district school house which stood at the section cross roads cutting through and bordering the Barber farm, and from the days of his boyhood has given his attention to farming on that place, eighty acres of which he now owns, he having established his home there after his marriage in his twenty-second year. Mr. Barber has a well-improved farm and an up-to-date farm plant and has his affairs in good shape. He is an ardent Republican and has for years been looked upon as

one of the leaders of that party in Salem township, having served as a trustee of the township for the past ten years and more. He also has rendered public service as school director in his district. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church at St. Marys and take a proper interest in church affairs. It was on September 25, 1889, that Abram H. Barber was united in marriage to Alice L. Wright, daughter of Frank M. and Nancy (Matson) Wright, both members of pioneer families in Auglaize county, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Ernest Barber, who married Anna Horton and has two children, Vernon and Mary. The Barbers have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys.

ANDREW McCLINTOCK, who died at his home in Duchouquet township in the fall of 1916 and whose widow is still living there, was one of the best known men in that part of the county in his generation, a substantial farmer and landowner and an honored veteran of the Civil war, and at his passing left a good memory. It is but proper, therefore, that there here should be preserved some modest tribute to that memory. Mr. McClintock was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, April 22, 1844, and was a son of George W. and Margaret (Steen) McClintock, who four years later came to Auglaize county and became numbered here as among the pioneers of Duchouquet township. George W. McClintock, the founder of the McClintock family in this county, was a native of Ireland, born on February 28, 1821, and was ten years of age when, in 1831, he crossed the Atlantic with his parents, the family locating in New Brunswick, where he grew to manhood and where in his twenty-second year he married Margaret Steen. In that same year, 1842, he and his wife came to Ohio and settled in Miami county, where they remained for six years, or until in 1848, the year in which Auglaize county was organized, when they came up here and settled in the timber along Two Mile creek, in the southwest quarter of section 32 of Duchouquet township. There George W. McClintock put up a log cabin and started in to clear his land and make a farm out of it. He later added to his holdings until he became the owner of an excellent farm of right around 150 acres, and was long accounted one of the substantial farmers of that community. On that place he spent his last days, his death occurring on August 8, 1887, he then being past sixty-six years of age. George W. McClintock was twice married. His first wife (Margaret Steen) died in 1851, three years after the family came to this county, and two years later he married Elizabeth Barr. By his first wife he was the father of six children, George, William, Anna Jane, Mary Ann, Margaret, and the subject of this memorial sketch, all of whom are now deceased. By his second union he was the father of eight children, Lorena (deceased), Robert, Ellen, Diana (deceased), Floretta,

ANDREW McCLINTOCK AND FAMILY

Emory, Edward and Effie (deceased). As has been noted above, Andrew McClintock was but four years of age when he came to Auglaize county, and he grew to manhood on the home farm there on Two Mile creek, thus becoming thoroughly familiar with the hard details of making a farm in a timbered land, and was living there when the Civil war broke out. At the age of nineteen he enlisted his services in behalf of the Union and went to the front as a private in the 54th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, attached to the 15th Army Corps, and with that command saw much strenuous service, including the campaign incident to the siege of Vicksburg and the Atlanta campaign, and during his service in this latter campaign was wounded. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. McClintock returned home and resumed his place on the farm, remaining there until his marriage in 1867, when he began farming on his own account. Six years later he bought a farm of 160 acres in Logan township, and there made his home for two years, at the end of which time he moved up across the line and bought a "forty" in Perry township, Allen county. On this latter place he made his home for nineteen years and then returned to the old home neighborhood in Duchouquet township, this county, and bought a tract of 117 acres, where he established his home and where his widow is now living. Mr. McClintock did well in his farming operations and added to his holdings until at the time of his death he was the owner of a fine farm of 195 acres. On that place he spent his last days, his death occurring on October 4, 1916. He was an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church, as is his widow, and their children were reared in that faith. Since the death of her husband Mrs. McClintock has continued to make her home on the farm, where she is very comfortably situated. She was born (Uretta Reed) on a farm in Shawnee township, in the neighboring county of Allen, and is a daughter of Emanuel and Elizabeth (O'Hara) Reed. She completed her schooling in the Lima schools and was for some time before her marriage engaged as a teacher in the schools of this county. To Andrew and Uretta (Reed) McClintock were born ten children, all of whom are living save two sons, Earl and Leroy, the others being Maude A., Albert C., Anna, Oran P., Florence, Eva, Ethel and James G., all of whom are married. Maude A. McClintock married William H. Phillips, of Lima, and has six children, Clue, Ray, Gale, Paul, Vera and Rhea. Albert C. McClintock married Catherine Lee Adams. Anna McClintock married Oscar Ritchie and has three children, Earl, Orville and Warren. Oran P. McClintock married Millie Merkley, of Wapakoneta, and has two children, Virgil and Otis. Florence McClintock married Irvin Terwilliger and has nine children, Bernice, Cecil, Raymond, Gerald, Howard, Gladys, Iva, Virgil and Lulu May. Eva McClintock married George Dumm

and has seven children, Mildred, Ruth, Mary, Harry, Chester, Franklin and Francis. Ethel McClintock married Roy H. Ritchie and has seven children, Ferald, Harry, Herbert, Janice, Dale, Betty Jane and Robert, and James G. McClintock married Mildred Frey and has one child, a daughter, Phyllis L. The late Leroy McClintock married Elizabeth Turner and died without issue. In the interesting aggregate here set out it will be noted that Mrs. McClintock has no fewer than thirty-five grandchildren, in all of whom she takes much pride and delight. She has a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 4 out of Wapakoneta. Not unmindful of her former days as a teacher in the schools of this county, she has ever taken an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of the neighborhood in which she lives and has been a helpful factor in promoting such movements as have had for their object the betterment of conditions thereabout.

WILLIAM SCHMIDT, who is living next to the old Henry Schmidt place west of New Bremen, one of the well-known farmers and landowners of that neighborhood, now living practically retired from the active labors of the farm, was born on that place and has lived there all his life. Mr. Schmidt was born on February 13, 1862, and is a son of Henry and Louise (Koch) Schmidt, both natives of Germany, who had settled on the farm here referred to back in the early '50s of the past century and concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere. Henry Schmidt was a veterinary surgeon, better known in those days as a "horse doctor," and his services were in wide demand throughout that part of the county in his day. He also was a good farmer and was the proprietor of a fine farm of 120 acres, which is still in the family, his original "eighty" there being now owned and farmed by his eldest son, Charles Schmidt, the remainder of the farm, with an additional "forty," being owned by William Schmidt, the brothers thus farming side by side. Henry Schmidt and wife were the parents of twelve children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Julia, and three brothers, Charles, Henry and Benjamin Schmidt. Reared on the home farm west of New Bremen, William Schmidt received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and from the days of his boyhood has been a farmer. He remained at home working on the farm with his father until his marriage, after which he bought the farm of sixty acres on which he is now living, and a part of which had belonged to the old home place, and ever since has resided there. Mr. Schmidt has his place well cultivated and has a well-equipped farm plant. In 1918 he retired from the active labors of the farm and has since rented his fields out, taking things somewhat easier than during the years of his more strenuous activity. He is a Democrat with "independent" leanings, and he and his family are mem-

bers of St. Paul's church at New Bremen, of the congregation of which he formerly was a deacon. William Schmidt married Mary Walters, also of this county, daughter of John P. and Dorothea (Weddermann) Walters, and to this union two daughters were born, Hilda and Huldah, the latter of whom married Elmer Tilker and has one child, Mary Jane. Hilda Schmidt married Royal Tangerman and has two children, Jean and James. The Schmidts have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of New Bremen.

DAVID J. BRAUN, president of the Pusheta township school board and a well-known farmer and landowner of that township, proprietor of a well-improved farm at the forks of Pusheta creek, less than two miles south and west of Wapakoneta, was born on that farm and has lived there pretty much all his life. Mr. Braun was born on December 29, 1873, and is a son of John M. and Mary E. (Hassenboehler) Braun, the latter of whom was born at Basel, in the republic of Switzerland, and was but nine months of age when she came with her parents to this country. The late John M. Braun, who in his generation was one of the best known men in the Wapakoneta neighborhood, was born in Seneca county, Ohio. On May 2, 1871, at Wapakoneta, he married Mary E. Hassenboehler, and thereafter until his retirement many years after made his home on his farm, the place above referred to, southwest of town. He not only was a good farmer, but he was an expert manufacturer of sorghum molasses, and for thirty-three years operated a sorghum mill on his place, maintaining this mill until his retirement from the farm in 1901 and removal to Wapakoneta, where he died in the next year, December 2, 1902. He and his wife were the parents of three sons, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Joseph A. Braun, of Globe, Ariz., and Frank P. Braun, of Wapakoneta. Reared on the home farm in Pusheta township, David J. Braun received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and in St. Joseph's parochial school at Wapakoneta, and from boyhood has been interested in the affairs of the farm, though for one year in the days of his young manhood he did work at Wapakoneta, in the employ of Charles N. Yokel. He married in his thirtieth year and has since made his home on the old home place, having taken charge of the farm after his marriage, his father retiring at that time, and later bought the place. Since taking possession of the farm, Mr. Braun has made numerous substantial improvements, including the erection of a new set of buildings, and now has a well-equipped farm plant. He has 113 acres, all of which is tillable, and in addition to his general farming has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, with particular reference to purebred Holstein cattle and Poland-China hogs. Mr. Braun also still maintains the old sorghum mill which was established on the farm by his

father more than fifty years ago, and though the sorghum industry in this county is not what it once was, grinds out quite a bit of the old-fashioned molasses every season. Mr. Braun has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and since 1916 has been rendering public service as a member of the Pusheta township school board, present president of the board. It was on June 5, 1901, that David J. Braun was united in marriage to Louise Klug, a member of one of the old families of this county, and to this union eight children have been born, Celeste, Cavel, Myron, Mildred, Louis, Noel, Ivan and Mary Louise, the two elder of whom have been graduated from the Wapakoneta high school, and the others, with the exception of little Mary Louise, are still in school. Celeste Braun is now employed in the Doty Dry goods store at Wapakoneta, and Cavel Braun is employed in the establishment of the General Motors Corporation at Dayton. The Brauns are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Wapakoneta, and Mr. Braun is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus at that place, and of the Knights of St. George. He likewise is affiliated with the local lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose there, and with the Swabian Society. Mrs. Braun was born at Wapakoneta on January 22, 1874, and is a daughter of Joseph and Barbara (Helpling) Klug, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families of Pusheta township. The late Joseph Klug was born at Dayton, Ohio, and was married at Wapakoneta in May, 1871. He early learned the trade of shoemaker, a vocation he followed at Wapakoneta for some time, but later became employed as a machinery salesman by the J. H. Doering Hardware Company at that place, and was thus for thirty years connected with that concern. Joseph Klug and wife were the parents of four children, two of whom are living, Mrs. Braun having a sister, Theresa. The deceased children of this family were Elizabeth and Joseph. The Brauns have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Wapakoneta.

GORDON W. JACOBS, a former trustee of Union township and one of the best known farmers in the upper part of that township, proprietor of a well-improved farm at the forks of the creek in the southeast quarter of section 3, which is a portion of the first tract of land entered for ownership following the opening of lands for settlement here ninety years ago, was born on that farm, which has been in the undisturbed possession of the family since its entry by his grandfather, Jehu Jacobs, back in 1832, the year in which the Indians were removed from this region. Mr. Jacobs was born on October 20, 1861, and is a son of Samuel F. and Nancy (Hardin) Jacobs, the latter of whom was a member of the pioneer Hardin family which proved so influential a factor in the days of the settlement of that part of this county. Samuel F. Jacobs was born in

Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, in 1802 and was twelve years of age when he came to this state with his parents, Jehu Jacobs and wife, the latter of whom was a Koch, the family settling in the Quaker settlement which had been effected down in Warren county, for Jehu Jacobs and his wife were earnest Quakers. Jehu Jacobs became a man of considerable substance, and when the lands were opened for settlement up here in what then was Allen county, in 1832, he realized the value of holdings here and came up and entered his claim to the south half of section 3 in the township (5 south of range 7 east) which two years later came to be organized as Union township. He, however, did not become a resident on this land, reserving it for his sons, and remained on his farm of 110 acres in Warren county, where he was well established, his last days being spent there, and Samuel F. Jacobs and his two brothers inherited this half section, together with an additional quarter section up over the line in Allen county. Samuel F. Jacobs came into possession of the tract at the fork of the creeks, a fraction more than 101 acres, and after his marriage established his home on that place and proceeded to clear and improve the same, his first house there being a two-story log cabin. He also erected a grist mill on the creek and put in a saw mill, both run by water power, and thus his place became recognized as a sort of a community center back in pioneer days, for these mills proved valuable conveniences to his widely scattered neighbors. On that place he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1879, and his widow survived him for fifteen years, her death occurring in 1894. They were the parents of nine children, of whom three are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Delleina, and a brother, Jehu Jacobs. The deceased children of this family were Rebecca, Samuel, Martin, John P. and two who died in childhood. Reared on the old home farm there at the forks of the creek, Gordon W. Jacobs received his schooling in the neighborhood school (district No. 2), and from the days of his boyhood has been attentive to the affairs of the farm. He was seventeen years of age when his father died, and he continued farming on his mother's behalf until her death in 1894, after which he inherited a one-fifth interest in the place, and upon his marriage about that time established his home there and has ever since resided there, later buying the interests of the other heirs, so that he has an excellent farm of something more than 100 acres. Since coming into possession of this place Mr. Jacobs has made extensive improvements on the farm and has an admirably equipped farm plant, his operations being carried on in accordance with modern methods of agriculture. Mr. Jacobs has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and has rendered public service in Union township as a township trustee and also for some time, years ago, as a constable. He is a member of the Masonic

lodge at Wapakoneta, and of the Odd Fellows lodge at St. Johns. It was on June 17, 1894, that Gordon W. Jacobs was united in marriage to Lillie B. Faler, who also was born in this county, daughter of Eli and Rebecca J. Faler. The Jacobs home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis, and Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs ever keep the latch string out for their many friends in that neighborhood.

OLIVER W. HOERATH, former mayor of the village of New Knoxville, former clerk of the village, former president of the local board of education there, chairman of the board of directors of the Home Benefits Association at that place, formerly and for years a teacher in the schools of this county and present secretary and treasurer of the Detjen Grain Company of New Knoxville and Moulton, was born at New Knoxville and has resided there practically all his life. Mr. Hoerath was born on October 23, 1881, and is a son of John and Fredericka (Schneider) Hoerath, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here, the former born at St. Marys and the latter in German township. John Hoerath grew to manhood at St. Marys, where he received his schooling, and as a young man went to Cincinnati, where he learned the trade of harness making. Upon finishing his trade he returned to this county and opened a harness shop at New Knoxville, where he continued in business for about forty years. He was twice married and by his first wife (Fredericka Schneider) was the father of two sons, the subject of this sketch and Arthur J. Hoerath. Upon the death of the mother of these sons, Mr. Hoerath married Fredericka Schroer, a member of one of the old families of Washington township, and to this union two sons were born, Julius and Walter Hoerath. Reared at New Knoxville, where he was born, Oliver W. Hoerath received his early schooling in the schools of that village and then entered the St. Marys high school. Upon finishing the high school course he secured a license to teach school, and in the following winter taught a district school in St. Marys township. In the next year he began teaching in the schools of Washington township, and was thus engaged during the winters for six years, at the end of which time he was appointed to the schools of New Knoxville, and for seven years was a teacher in the village schools, at the same time and meanwhile becoming active in the general affairs of that village. In 1912 Mr. Hoerath left the school room to give his attention to the affairs of the Detjen Grain Company of New Knoxville and Moulton, of which concern he was elected secretary and treasurer, and has since devoted his chief attention to the operations of that company, which not only maintains grain elevators at New Knoxville and Moulton, with its rail outlet at the latter place, but also is extensively engaged in the sale of coal, lumber and builders' supplies and farm implements,

with sales establishments in both villages. Mr. Hoerath has long been looked upon as one of the "live wires" in the business life of his home town. He was one of the organizers of the Home Benefits Association of that place and is the present chairman of the board of directors of the same. He is a Democrat and has long taken an active interest in local civic affairs, having at various times rendered public service as mayor of New Knoxville (two terms), two terms as clerk of the village, and four years as president of the local board of education. Oliver W. Hoerath married Ida Headapohl, daughter of Catherine Headapohl, and also a member of one of the old families in this county, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Kathryn. Mr. and Mrs. Hoerath are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville, of which congregation Mr. Hoerath is one of the deacons, and of which he also for the past five years and more has been serving as clerk, or secretary of the church. The Hoeraths have a pleasant home at New Knoxville and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of that community.

FRED R. SNIDER, a well-known and progressive young farmer and landowner of Union township, is a native son of Ohio and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since the days of his youth. Mr. Snider was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Shelby on October 27, 1896, and is the son and only living child of George and Belle (Brandenburg) Snider, both of whom died when he was but a small child. George Snider also was born in Shelby county, a member of one of the pioneer families there, and after his marriage settled down to farming and became the owner of an excellent farm of 135 acres in that county, where his last days were spent. Fred R. Snider was but six years of age when he was left an orphan and he was taken into the household of his uncle, Grant Snider, in Auglaize county, where he was reared and well trained in the ways of farming. Upon attaining his majority he came into his inheritance of the farm left by his father in Shelby county, and a year before his marriage he sold that farm and bought the farm of 110 acres on which he is now living in Union township, and has since made his home there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. It was on October 27, 1917, that Fred R. Snider was united in marriage to Helen Foreman, of Logan county, this state, and to this union have been born three children, Alice, Eunice and William. The Sniders have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 6 out of Wapakoneta, and Mr. and Mrs. Snider take an interested part in the general social activities of the community in which they live. They are Republicans, and Mr. Snider is a member of the Masonic lodge of Jackson Center, and of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Uniopolis.

E. BAKER COPELAND, former justice of the peace in and for Union township, and a well-known and substantial farmer and landowner of that township, proprietor of "Eminence Farm," just north of St. Johns, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the old families here, and has resided here all his life, a period of three score years and ten. Mr. Copeland was born on a pioneer farm in Clay township on May 15, 1853, and is a son of Amos and Mary J. (Layton) Copeland, both members of pioneer families in that part of the county. The late Amos Copeland was born in Greene county, this state, August 6, 1816, and was twenty years of age when, in 1836, he came up into this part of the state with his parents, John and Cynthia (Scroggs) Copeland, the family settling in Clay township of what then was Allen county, but which in 1848 became a part of the newly erected Auglaize county. John Copeland, the pioneer, entered from the Government three "eighties" in Clay township and set about clearing and improving the tracts, and in the home he established there spent the remainder of his days, one of the useful and influential pioneers of that section, as is set out elsewhere in this work. Upon coming here with his father, in 1836, Amos Copeland entered upon the task of helping to clear and bring under cultivation the lands taken by the family, and after his marriage four years later started farming on his own account, buying a tract of 200 acres in Clay township. With the improvements he made on that place he exchanged it six years later for a farm of 181 acres, on which he made his home until in the fall of 1869. Later he bought a tract of 113 acres just over the line in Union township, the place where his son, Baker, is now living, in section 32, and increased his land holdings until at one time he had 517 acres. There he made his home until in 1875, when he retired from the farm and moved to St. Johns, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on July 25, 1898, he then being just under eighty-two years of age. To Amos Copeland and wife were born nine children, of whom six are still living. The second son, John M. Copeland, enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union during the Civil war, in September, 1862, went to the front as a member of Company C, 57th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and was killed in the battle of Resaca, Ga., May 14, 1864. George H. Copeland, the eldest son, also served as a soldier during the Civil war, serving with the 54th Ohio until wounded and discharged, and after his recuperation as a volunteer in the 37th Ohio. Another of the sons, Enos A. Copeland, is deceased, and one of the daughters, Cynthia, died in childhood, the survivors of this family (besides the subject of this sketch) being George H., Julia, William N., Miriam and Winfield S. Copeland. E. Baker Copeland was sixteen years of age when his parents moved from the Clay township farm to the

E. BAKER COPELAND, E. BAKER COPELAND, JR., AND GERTRUDE M. COPELAND

farm in Union township, and his schooling was completed in the little old log school house known as the Brackney school in this latter township. He remained with his father on the farm until his marriage at the age of twenty-three, when he rented a farm and began operations on his own account. A few years later he bought thirty-five acres of the home place, his father retiring from the farm at that time, and has since resided there, adding to his holdings until now he owns 144 acres, to the operations of which he continues to give his oversight. Since coming into possession of this farm Mr. Copeland has made extensive improvements in the way of new buildings on the place and has an admirably equipped farm plant. Mr. Copeland is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, having served for seven years as a justice of the peace in his home township, and also for some years as a school director. F. Baker Copeland has been twice married. On September 19, 1876, he was united in marriage to Anna Marie Herring, of this county, and to this union two sons were born, Clyde and Howard, both of whom are married. Clyde Copeland married Maude Emerson, and Howard Copeland married Martha Elster and has two children, Gertrude and Elster. Mrs. Anna Marie Copeland died on August 17, 1904, and on October 24, 1907, Mr. Copeland married Emma (DeLong) Woods, who was born at Omega, in Pike county, this state, and who was reared at Denver, in the adjoining county of Ross, a daughter of William P. and Eva (Richardson) DeLong. The Copeland home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Wapakoneta.

CHRISTOPHER GEORGE SCHNELL, a well-known automobile salesman of Wapakoneta and who formerly was engaged in the saloon business in that city, was born at Wapakoneta and has been a resident of that city all his life. Mr. Schnell was born in 1871 and is a son of Christopher and Caroline (Warner) Schnell, the latter of whom is still living, making her home at Wapakoneta. The late Christopher Schnell, who for years operated a brick-making plant at Wapakoneta, was born in the city of Baltimore, Md., and there received his schooling. He served a thorough apprenticeship as a brickmaker, and then as a young man seeking a location for the exercise of his activities in that direction came to Ohio and located at Wapakoneta. He established a brick-making plant across the railway tracks from the old cemetery, and for thirty years thereafter was engaged there in brickmaking, the products of his kilns finding a ready market throughout a wide territory in this part of the state. He operated three kilns and the capacity of his plant ran from 800,000 to 1,000,000 bricks annually. Much of this product was designed for the outside market, and the high quality of the Schnell bricks always insured a ready market. In 1902 Christopher Schnell retired from

business. The rest of his life was spent in Wapakoneta, where he died in 1907. His widow survives him and is still living at Wapakoneta, now making her home with her daughter, Mrs. Nellie Locher. Christopher Schnell and wife had eight children, five of whom are still living, those besides Mrs. Locher—just mentioned—and the subject of this sketch being another daughter, Mrs. Anna Wolf, and two other sons, Herman and August Schnell. Reared at Wapakoneta, Christopher George Schnell received his schooling in the local schools and for some time as a young man continued engaged working in the brick plant in association with his father. He then became engaged in business for himself, opening a saloon at Wapakoneta, and for two years carried on this business, after which he disposed of the saloon and began operating in the oil fields in this state and in Indiana, carrying on in that line during the height of the oil "boom," and then resumed the saloon business at Wapakoneta and so continued for ten years or more, or until the dissolution of the liquor business in Ohio, when he became engaged as an automobile salesman for the Hauss & Bitler firm at Wapakoneta, and has since been thus engaged, giving his special attention to the sale of tractors and trucks, and has done well. In 1897 Christopher G. Schnell was united in marriage to Flora Crow, daughter of Oren and Mary E. (Musser) Crow, the latter of whom is a member of one of the old families of this county. Oren Crow was a native of Licking county, this state, and became a farmer in Auglaize county, the owner of a quite extensive farm here. Mr. and Mrs. Crow have eight children, Charles, Dora, Grant, Effie, Flora, Haman, Ziba and Lulu. They are members of St. Mark's Lutheran church. Mr. Schnell is affiliated with the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and with the Swabian Society. In his political views he is "independent." The Schnells have a pleasant home at 411 McMurray street.

FERD POPPE, a well known and progressive farmer of German township, residing in the neighborhood of New Bremen, was born in the neighboring township of St. Marys on May 10, 1892, and is a son of Jacob and Sophia (Moeller) Poppe, the latter of whom was born in German township, a member of one of the pioneer families there. The late Jacob Poppe was born in St. Marys township and was a son of August Poppe, a native of Germany, who became one of the pioneers of that township, establishing his home there at the headwaters of Center branch in section 25, in the southeastern part of the township, many years ago. On that pioneer farm Jacob Poppe grew to manhood. He completed his schooling in the New Bremen schools and after his marriage began farming on his own account, later moving to German township, where he became the owner of a farm of 120 acres and where he and his wife

spent their last days, her death occurring in 1906 and his on June 29, 1919. They were the parents of four children, two of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Amanda. Reared on the farm, Ferd Poppe completed his schooling in the schools of New Bremen and from boyhood was well trained in the ways of the farm. After his marriage he rented his father's farm and there carried on operations on his own account for two years, at the end of which time he found employment at Sidney and for awhile lived in that city, later moving to New Bremen, but after about three years of this outside employment returned to the home farm and again took charge of it as a renter. After the death of his father he took over the farm of 120 acres and has since been operating the same. He has ninety-five acres of the place under cultivation and is doing well in his operations, which are carried on in accordance with up-to-date methods. Ferd Poppe married Myrtle Greer, daughter of William and Dena Greer, and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Virgil and Pauline. The Poppes have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2, out of New Bremen. Mr. and Mrs. Pope are members of St. Peter's Evangelical church at New Bremen and in their political views hold themselves independent of party ties.

STAFFORD S. NOBLE, proprietor of the artificial ice plant at St. Marys and a member of one of the old families of Auglaize county, was born on a farm in Noble township, this county, May 13, 1884, and is a son of Alva and Mattie (Whetstone) Noble, both of whom are members of pioneers families in Auglaize county and are now living retired at St. Marys. The Nobles were among the early residents of that section of the county now comprising Noble township and it was in honor of Elisha Noble, who was a county commissioner during the time that region was included in Mercer county and who later became a commissioner of Auglaize county, that this township was named, and Henry Noble, father of Alva Noble and grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was one of the sons of this pioneer. Henry Noble had an excellent farm of 160 acres, the southeast quarter of section 24 of Noble township and it was on this farm that Alva Noble was reared. After his marriage he established his home there and continued to farm the place, of which he became the proprietor, until his retirement and removal to St. Marys, where he is now living. To him and his wife were born eight children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch (the sixth in order of birth) having two sisters, Lulu and Jeannette, and five brothers, Frank Noble, Dr. Harry Noble, Dr. Guy Noble, Dr. Vernon Noble and Dr. Walter Noble. Reared on the home farm in Noble township, Stafford S. Noble received his early schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home

(old district No. 5) and supplemented this by attendance at the St. Marys high school and a six-months course at Indianapolis, after which he entered the mechanical engineering department of Ohio State University and after a year there entered the employ of a sheet and tube company at Youngstown, Ohio, as boiler and steam inspector, afterward being made the traveling agent of that company as an inspector of machinery in their trade area. In February, 1921, Mr. Noble returned to St. Marys, having determined to enter business for himself, and there erected an artificial ice plant, which he has since been quite successfully operating. This plant has a daily capacity of about seventeen tons of ice and is now supplying the bulk of the ice trade in St. Marys, New Bremen, Celina, Spencerville, Buckland and Kossuth. Stafford S. Noble married Alma Helmstetter, who was born at St. Marys, daughter of Louis and Emma Helmstetter, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Alvin and Robert. The Nobles have a pleasant home at 217 North Wayne street. Mr. and Mrs. Noble are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are Democrats and Mr. Noble is a member of the Masonic lodge at St. Marys and of the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta.

WILLIAM H. PARLETTE, a former trustee of Union township and a well known farmer and landowner of that township, proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 1, out of Uniopolis, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since the days of his infancy. Mr. Parlette was born in Greene county, Ohio, April 4, 1866, and is a son of William C. and Anetta (Woolery) Parlette, the latter of whom died when he was a small child. The late William C. Parlette was a Virginian by birth, born in that section of the Old Dominion now included in West Virginia, and was but one year old when he came with his parents, David and Elizabeth Parlette, to Ohio, the family settling in the vicinity of Columbus, where David Parlette died about ten years later. His widow remarried and later came to Auglaize county, the family settling on a farm in Duchouquet township. William C. Parlette was but a boy when this change of residence was made and he was taken into the home of an aunt at St. Johns, where he grew to manhood. He early became employed as a timberman in the then "big woods' hereabout and the rest of his life was spent as a timberman. After his marriage he established his home in Greene county and some years later moved to the neighboring county of Clinton, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on June 14, 1904. Of the nine children born to him and his wife six are still living, the subject of this sketch (the next to the last in order of birth) having four sisters, Elizabeth, Ella, Hannah and Jennie A., and a brother, James A. Par-

lette. William H. Parlette was but two years of age when his mother died and he was taken into the home of an aunt in this county. A year later his grandmother took him in charge, an uncle later taking care of him, and at the age of fourteen he began "working out" as a farm hand. He married at the age of twenty-one and then rented a farm of 160 acres in Union township and worked that place for a year, at the end of which time he rented an "eighty" in that same township. Three years later he took charge of a "forty" in that neighborhood and there made his home until he moved to the farm on which he is now living in that township, his wife having inherited fifty acres of this tract, a part of the Naus place, and has since resided here, having meanwhile added to the tract by the purchase of an adjoining tract of twenty-six acres, so that now he has a well improved place of seventy-six acres and is doing well in the operation of the same. It was on December 24, 1887, that William H. Parlette was united in marriage to Ida Naus, who was born in Union township, daughter of Charles and Imelda (Metz) Naus, and to this union have been born eight children, all of whom are living save one who died in infancy, the others being Lillie, Annetta, Virgil, Charles, Nellie, John and Ernest, three of whom are married. Annetta Parlette married Jason Stimmel and has one child, a son, Clayton. Virgil Parlette married Emma Emerick and Charles Parlette married Gladys Shade and has one child, a son, Charles Eugene. Nellie Parlette married Ortho T. Graham and now lives in Allen county. Mr. and Mrs. Parlette are members of the Methodist Protestant church and have ever taken an interested part in the affairs of that congregation. Mr. Parlette is a Democrat and has long been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in his home township, having served a term as one of the trustees of the township and in other ways having given his interested attention to local civic affairs. All of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Parlette have taught school with the exception of the youngest son, Ernest, who is a mechanic at Uniopolis, employed by his brother Virgil, who is the proprietor of a garage there. Three of these children are still teaching, Miss Lillie Parlette, teaching the Hardin school (district No. 2); Charles Parlette, teaching the Walton school (district No. 3), and John Parlette, teaching in the high school at Ridgeway in the neighboring county of Hardin. Virgil Parlette is a veteran of the World war, with an overseas record. He entered army service on May 28, 1918, at Camp Taylor (Kentucky) and three weeks later was transferred to Camp Beauregard, where he was made a corporal. There he was attached to the 142d Field Artillery, a unit of the 39th Division, and with that command left Camp Mills for overseas service, the command landing at Brest, France. He was overseas three months and received his discharge on January 18, 1919, the

war being over. Jason Stimmel, one of Mr. Parlette's sons-in-law, also is a veteran of the World War. He entered the service on June 25, 1918, and was at Camp Jackson (South Carolina) when the armistice was signed. He suffered a nervous breakdown after leaving the army and in December, 1921, was sent to the soldiers' sanitarium at Marion, Ind., where in January, 1923, he was transferred to the hospital at Waukesha, Wis.

ERNST VOHS, a substantial landowner of Van Buren township, over in the neighboring county of Shelby, now living retired in the village of New Knoxville, where he and his family are very comfortably situated, is a European by birth but has been a resident of this country and of this section of Ohio since he was eighteen years of age, a period of more than fifty years. Mr. Vohs was born in Germany on October 30, 1853, and is a son of Frederick and Elizabeth (Katterheinrich) Vohs, the latter of whom was a member of the well known family of Katterheinrichs that became pioneers of Washington township, this county, and which family is still largely represented hereabout in the present generation. Frederick Vohs died in Germany, leaving his widow with four children, about the year 1870. In the next year, 1871, the Widow Vohs came to this country with her children to join kinsfolk who had settled in the New Knoxville neighborhood and she set up her home at New Knoxville. Of the four children who accompanied her here two are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Fredericka. As will be noted by a comparison of dates above, Ernst Vohs was eighteen years of age when he came here with his mother and settled at New Knoxville. He had received excellent schooling in his home land, but after his arrival here for some time attended night school at New Knoxville in order to acquire a better working knowledge of the language of his new country. Upon his arrival he began working in the saw mill and for about eight years continued thus employed in the timber and lumber industry. That was in the days of the big timber and there always was plenty of work for the willing timberman, for there were many calls on the lumber mills. With the money thus earned Mr. Vohs, who meanwhile had married, decided to buy a farm and settle down as a farmer. He went down over the line in Van Buren township, Shelby county, and bought a tract of fifty acres there and on this place established his home. As he got that cleared and improved he bought an adjoining forty and thus got a farm of ninety acres, on which he continued to make his home until his retirement from the active labors of the farm and removal in 1919 to New Knoxville, where he bought a comfortable home and where he has since resided, now renting his farm. Mr. Vohs has been twice married. His first wife, Mary Niemeyer, daughter of Henry and Mary (Katterheinrich) Niemeyer, died leaving

three children, Emma, Henry and Sophia, after which Mr. Vohs married Elizabeth Fenneman, daughter of William Fenneman, also a member of one of the old families of Washington township. Mr. and Mrs. Vohs are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville and are Republicans. Mr. Vohs's children all are married. Emma Vohs married Benjamin Neuman and has one child, a son, Leonard. Henry Vohs married Mary Schroer and has three children, Rinehart, Leonard and Olga, and Sophia Vohs is the wife of George Clausing.

WILLIAM DOENGES, of the firm of Doenges & Doenges, vulcanizers and dealers in automobile tires at New Bremen, and one of the best known men in that community, a retired farmer of St. Marys township, now living at New Bremen, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Doenges was born on a farm in the southwestern part of St. Marys township on March 18, 1865, and is a son of Louis and Elizabeth (Wagoner) Doenges, the latter of whom was born in Pennsylvania, but had come to Ohio with her parents in the days of her girlhood, the family settling in this county. Louis Doenges, who is now living at a ripe old age at New Bremen, was born in Germany and was but eight years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and settling on a farm in St. Marys township, this county, where they established their home. He grew to manhood on that farm and after his marriage became a farmer on his own account and became the owner of a well-kept farm of ninety-two and one-half acres. Before settling down on the farm he had worked for eight years as a driver on the canal and thus has many interesting stories to tell of the lively times in the old canal days hereabout. Upon his retirement from the farm, which is now owned by his son, William, he moved to New Bremen, where he is now living. To him and his wife were born four children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, August and Charles Doenges. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, William Doenges received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood (old district No. 8), and as a young man remained at home, continuing to assist in the development of the farm. After his marriage he rented the place from his father, and some years later bought the same and continued farming there until, with the development of the vulcanizing and automobile tire business of Doenges & Doenges at New Bremen, he bought into that concern and moved to town to give his active attention to the business, and has since resided there. He still holds his farm of ninety-two and one-half acres in section 30 of St. Marys township, a mile or more south of the Reservoir, and continues to keep a close supervisory eye on the operations of the same. The Doenges firm has a well-equipped vulcanizing plant and

does a good business, carrying the local agency for the Mohawk, Miller, Victor and Master Cord tires. Mr. Doenges is a member of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, with which he has been affiliated for many years. He is a Democrat, was formerly a member of that party's central committee in St. Marys township, and is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran church, of which for some years he was a deacon. William Doenges married Elizabeth Hespe, who died on November 24, 1918, and to that union were born four children, Alma, Adley, William Jr. and Gladys, the latter of whom is at home with her father. Alma Doenges married Otto Schneider and has one child, a son, Victor. Adley Doenges married ——— Latamier and has two children, James and ———, and William Doenges Jr. married Marie Oldiges and has two children, Louis and Edward.

HENRY O. KUCK, a well-known and substantial farmer and landowner of Washington township and proprietor of a well-kept farm on the Botkins road just out of New Knoxville, in section 29, was born on that farm and has lived there practically all his life, the owner of the same since the death of his grandfather, the lamented Rev. F. H. W. Kuckhermann, in 1915. Mr. Kuck was born on February 13, 1871, and is a son of Ernst and Sophia (Hoge) Kuck, the latter of whom, also a member of one of the pioneer families of Washington township, died within a week after his birth. The late Ernst Kuck, whose last days were spent down in the neighboring county of Shelby, was born at New Knoxville and was a son of the Rev. F. H. W. Kuckhermann, who for nearly fifty years was the beloved pastor of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville, as is set out in the chapter on churches in this work. The Reverend Kuckhermann was a native of Germany and in his home land had received a liberal education. He came to this country in the days of his young manhood and became employed as a teacher in the New Knoxville schools, later becoming ordained as a minister of the German Reformed church, and in 1852 was installed as pastor of the First Reformed church at New Knoxville, a labor of love which he maintained until his retirement on account of infirmity and ill health in 1890. Ernst Kuck, his son, shortened the name for convenience sake, and this form of the original name also is maintained by the latter's son, Henry, and his children. Ernst Kuck grew to manhood at New Knoxville, and after his marriage became well established as a farmer, the owner of a farm of 100 acres down over the line in Shelby county, on which latter place he spent his last days. He was twice married. His first wife, Sophia Hoge, died, as is noted above, a few days after the birth of their only child, and he later married Sophia Niemeyer, also a member of one of the old families in this county, and to this union seven children were born,

THE REV. AND MRS. F. H. W. KUCKHERMAN

HENRY O. KUCK AND WIFE

all of whom but one (Sophia) are living, these being August, Herman, William, James, Caroline and Anna. Bereft of his mother when he was but a babe, Henry O. Kuck was reared in the household of his grandfather, the Rev. F. H. W. Kuckhermann, at New Knoxville, and there received careful schooling. In his youth he became attracted to farming as a vocation, and after his marriage established his home on his grandfather's farm, just southwest of the village, the place on which he is now living, his grandfather spending his last days there with him. Following the death of his grandfather, in the spring of 1915, Mr. Kuck took over the place, an excellent and well-improved farm of 110 acres, and has continued to make his home there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of this farm Mr. Kuck has made numerous improvements on the place and has a well-equipped farm plant. He is a Republican and has rendered public service as a member of the board of education of New Knoxville village. He and his wife are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville, and he has served as a deacon of that congregation. It was in 1892 that Henry O. Kuck was united in marriage to Elizabeth Warner, daughter of Carl Warner, and to this union have been born six children, Edwin, Adiel, Matilda, Meta, Alice and Calvin, the first named of whom, Edwin Kuck, married Lucile Loy and has one child, a son, Robert. The second son, Adiel Kuck, is a student at the Mission House College at Plymouth, Wis., taking studies preparatory to entrance upon the ministry of the Reformed church. The Kuck home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 2 out of Botkins.

W. H. LUTTERBECK, one of the best known farmers and landowners of Washington township, now living retired at New Knoxville, where he has interests in the tile works and in the gas plant, was born on the farm which he now owns, in the southwest quarter of section 8 of Washington township, two miles north of New Knoxville, January 20, 1846, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Fennemann) Lutterbeck, who had settled there in the woods about three years prior to that date. Henry Lutterbeck, one of the real pioneers of Washington township, was a native of Germany, where he grew to manhood and was married. Following his marriage he came to this country with his wife and proceeded on out into Ohio. That was in 1840 during the progress of work on the construction of the canal up through this part of the state. He was a skilled ropemaker and upon his arrival here he set up a rope-walk and began to manufacture snub ropes and tow ropes for use on the canal and also did a considerable business in the manufacture of bed cords for the use of the pioneers. In this manner he got a start toward the accomplishment of his design, which was to become a

landowner in this then new country, and in 1843 he bought a tract of forty acres in the southwest quarter of section 8 of Washington township, which then was a part of Allen county, for that was five years before the erection of Auglaize county. Henry Lutterbeck built a cabin there in the woods and settled down to the strenuous task of clearing his place and making a farm out of it, for that place, there between the creeks, was then all densely wooded. As he developed this place he added to his holdings until he became the owner of all that quarter section besides an adjoining tract of twenty acres over in section 7. On that place he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1893. To Henry Lutterbeck and wife were born five children, the subject of this sketch and his three sisters, Elizabeth, Christina and Mary, and his brother, William Lutterbeck. As will be noted by a comparison of dates above, W. H. Lutterbeck was two years of age when Auglaize county came into civic being. He received his schooling in the little old pioneer school house (district No. 4) just across the road from the southwest corner of his father's farm, and from the days of his boyhood was trained in the ways of the farm. After his marriage he continued to reside there, assuming management of the place as his father retired from the active labors of the farm, and after his father's death in 1893 took over the home place of 177 acres and there continued to reside until his retirement in 1909 and removal to New Knoxville, where he has since resided. Besides the old home farm which he owns Mr. Lutterbeck has other land holdings, the owner, all told, of 224 acres in this county. In addition to the general farming operations which he has carried on, he also gave considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done well, his farms being well improved and adequately equipped. Since his removal to New Knoxville, Mr. Lutterbeck has maintained an active interest not only in his farming operations but in the general business interests of the community and is one of the leading stockholders of the Auglaize Tile Company at New Knoxville. He also is interested in the operations of the New Knoxville gas plant, of which concern he also is one of the stockholders. In his political views Mr. Lutterbeck is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville, of which congregation he was for three years a director. W. H. Lutterbeck has been twice married. His first wife (Elizabeth Smithkamp) was the mother of six children, three of whom died in infancy. She died in 1897, leaving three daughters, Sarah, Caroline and Lydia, and Mr. Lutterbeck later married Elizabeth Katterheinrich, also a member of one of the old families of this county. Sarah Lutterbeck, Mr. Lutterbeck's eldest daughter married Ernest Holtkamp and has two children, Otto and Esther, the former of whom is married and has a child, thus placing Mr.

Lutterbeck in the great-grandfather class, a distinction which he very properly regards quite highly. Caroline Lutterbeck married Henry Eversman and has three children, Ferd, Julius and Sylvanus, and Lydia Lutterbeck married Maurice Knoll and has two children, Robert and Florence.

ADOLPH ESCHMEYER, former mayor of New Knoxville and formerly and for years engaged in that village as a building contractor and brickmaker, now living retired and giving his attention to his farming interests in the immediate vicinity of the village, was born on a farm just a half mile west of the village of New Knoxville, on February 13, 1851, and has lived thereabout all his life, a period of more than seventy years. Mr. Eschmeyer is a son of Adolph and Christina (Hoelscher) Eschmeyer, natives of Germany, who settled on a small farm west of New Knoxville back in pioneer days and became substantial residents of that neighborhood. The senior Adolph Eschmeyer was about twenty-eight years of age when he came to this country and proceeded on out here into western Ohio. Not long afterward he bought a tract of sixty-seven acres in the northeast quarter of the northwest quarter of section 19 of Washington township, in this county, and there established his home and continued to farm there the remainder of his life, meanwhile increasing his holdings until he became the owner of a good farm of 144 acres. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Ernest Eschmeyer. By a former marriage to Adolph Fledderjohann, Mrs. Christina Eschmeyer was the mother of a son, William Fledderjohann, who is now living at Richmond, Ind. Reared on the home farm, the junior Adolph Eschmeyer received his schooling in the schools of New Knoxville, and when sixteen years of age began to work at the carpenter's trade, a vocation which he followed for twenty years or more, meanwhile becoming a building contractor on his own account. He also after awhile started a brick yard at New Knoxville and for twenty years continued to operate the same, during that time manufacturing much of the brick that entered into construction work throughout that trade area, the last sixteen years of his activity in the local industrial field having been given over largely to the operations of this brick yard, giving these a preference over his building operations. In 1898 Mr. Eschmeyer sold his brickmaking plant and has since been giving his attention to his farming interests, living on his well-kept place of twenty-four acres on the outskirts of New Knoxville and renting the farm of something more than ninety-eight acres he owns in German township. Mr. Eschmeyer is a Republican and has ever given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs. Years ago he served for some time as a constable in and for Washington township and he also has served as

mayor of the village of New Knoxville. Adolph Eschmeyer married Elizabeth Fennaman, daughter of William Fennaman, and also a member of one of the pioneer families of Washington township, and to that union were born three children, two of whom are living, Anna and Matilda, the latter of whom married Ernest Eversman and has four children, Oliver, Carl, Dorothy and Louise. Anna Eschmeyer, the elder daughter, married Henry Roediger and has twelve children, Esther, Leota, Walter, Frank, Marie, Chester, Elmer, Emiel, Ruth, Vernon, Mildred and Kenneth. Mrs. Elizabeth Eschmeyer died on May 16, 1922. Mr. Eschmeyer is a member of the Reformed church at New Knoxville, as was his wife, and he has served the congregation of that church as a deacon.

PETER SEIBERT, formerly and for years one of Salem township's best known and most substantial pioneer farmers and landowners and a man of wide influence in his community in his day and generation, left a good memory at his passing more than thirty years ago, and it is but fitting that in making up a historical and biographical review of this character there should be carried here some modest tribute to that memory, for he had done well his part in the development of his community. Peter Seibert was born in Crawford county, Ohio, May 15, 1836, and was a son of Peter and Charlotte (Wendeling) Seibert, natives of Germany, who had come to this country following their marriage in their native land and had established themselves on a pioneer farm in Crawford county, among the early settlers of that part of the state. The junior Peter Seibert grew to manhood on that farm in Crawford county and was there married. In 1864, shortly after his marriage, he sold a "forty" he owned in Crawford county and came to Auglaize county with his wife and bought a fraction more than eighty-three acres—a bit more than the measured east half of the northeast quarter of section 3 of Salem township—and on that place established his home. Even at that comparatively late date Salem township was just properly emerging from its primitive wilderness state and native conditions thereabout were pretty raw, but Mr. Seibert was a man of progressive thought and methods and it was not long until he had made a farm out of his place and was beginning to take in more land. The original landowner on this tract had put up a log cabin and a log stable, and these were the only improvements on the place when Peter Seibert took hold. His location in the woods about a mile and a half west of the canal and about the same distance southwest of Kossuth gave him a good outlet for the products of his farm and his agricultural affairs prospered from the start, so that he gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of 275 acres and was accounted one of the substantial citizens of Auglaize county. On that place he spent his last days, his death occurring on

January 27, 1890, he then being in his fifty-fourth year, in the very prime of his life. His widow survived him until 1917. She was Anna M. Uhl, daughter of John H. Uhl, of Crawford county. Peter Seibert was a stanch Democrat, and he and his wife were members of the United Brethren church, in the faith of which communion their children were reared. They had eleven children, of whom six are now living, John H., Lewis, William T., Samuel P., Daniel G. and Caroline. William T. and Samuel P. Seibert, who have stuck to the old home place, are among the best known citizens of that community. William F. Seibert grew up to the life of the farm on the home place and acquired other interests in the farm until he now is the owner of 203 acres of the old home place, where he has an excellent farm plant and is carrying on his operations in up-to-date and profitable fashion. His brother, Samuel P. Seibert, who is also living on the old home place, married Margaret A. Haver and has five children, Margaret, Martha, Walter, Benjamin and Elmer. The Seibert brothers are Democrats and are members of the United Brethren church. The Seiberts have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys.

OTTO VOGEL, former member of the board of trustees of Noble township and a well known farmer of that township, living on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys, was born in Germany on February 12, 1862, and was eight years of age when, in 1870, his parents, William and Sabilla (Otto) Vogel, came with their family to America and proceeded on out into Ohio and located in Noble township, this county. For some time after coming here William Vogel, who had been a weaver in his native country, farmed as a renter in Noble township and then bought a farm in the northwest quarter of section 1 of St. Marys township. He started in with but twenty acres, but as his affairs prospered he added to his land holdings until he was the owner of an excellent farm of 110 acres north of the old plank road a mile or more east of St. Marys and became one of the substantial citizens of that neighborhood. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, four of whom—the subject of this sketch, Louise, Emma and one who died in childhood—were born in Germany and the others, Henry, Gus, John, Emelia and William, in this county. As noted above, Otto Vogel was eight years of age when his parents arrived in this country and his schooling was completed here. As a young man he became employed as a carpenter and followed that vocation for four years, at the end of which time, after his marriage, he established his home on his wife's farm of eighty acres in Noble township and has ever since resided on that place. Mr. Vogel has improved his farm in up-to-date fashion and has a well equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming he gives proper attention to the raising of

live stock and is doing well in his operations. Mr. Vogel is a Democrat and for three years rendered public service as a member of the board of trustees of Noble township. He also has served as a member of the local school board and has in other ways given a good citizen's attention to civic affairs. Otto Vogel married Mary Schmidt, daughter of Chris and Caroline Schmidt, of this county, and to this union six children have been born, Helen, Tessie, Lambert, Edward, Frank and Alfred, the three first named of whom are married. Helen Vogel married Jesse Glass and has four children, Catherine, Grace, Alice and Arthur. Tessie Vogel married William Glass and has five children, Mary, Dorothy, Pauline, Otto and Juanita, and Lambert Vogel married Dorothy Worman and has one child, a son, Lambert, Jr. The Vogels are members of St. Paul's Reformed church at St. Marys and Mr. Vogel has served the congregation of this church as a deacon and is now an elder of the church.

JOHN F. NEUMAN, third in direct line of ownership of the old Neuman farm west of New Bremen and whose son (in the fourth generation) now is farming the place, was born on that place and has lived there pretty much all his life. It was his grandfather, John Bernard Neuman, who made the original entry to that place, the north half of the northeast quarter of section 17 of German township, a mile west of the corporate limits of New Bremen, the date of this entry being April 24, 1820. On that place John Bernard Neuman and his wife, natives of Germany, established their home and reared their family, substantial pioneers of the New Bremen neighborhood. One of their sons, John H. Neuman, born on the place, in time came into possession of the "eighty" and there he reared his family. Upon his death his son, John F. Neuman, bought the interests of the other heirs and thus came into possession, the third John Neuman to own the place, and the latter's son, Lafe Neuman, in the fourth generation, now is carrying on the operations of the farm. The late John H. Neuman, son of the pioneer, and his wife (Adaline Sweacke), who also was a member of one of the pioneer families of the New Bremen neighborhood, and concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work, were the parents of a goodly family of children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Sophia, and four brothers, Walter, August, Fred and Henry Neuman. It was thus that John F. Neuman, born on that place on August 1, 1857, was reared there. He received his schooling in the New Bremen schools and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in the ways of the farm. Following his marriage he, for a time, made his home in New Bremen and then he rented a farm of ninety-five acres in the immediate vicinity of New Knoxville and was there engaged in farming for seven years, at the end of which time he returned to the home farm

west of New Bremen and took charge of the same, renting from his father. Upon his father's death in the following year he bought from the other heirs their respective interests in the place and has since been living there. Mr. Neuman continued actively engaged in farming until 1914, when he retired from active management of the place, which has since been farmed by his son, Lafe Neuman, who is married and is living on the place. Since he came into possession of this farm Mr. Neuman has made extensive improvements and has two sets of buildings on the place and an excellent farm plant. John F. Neuman married Minnie Kettler, daughter of Henry Kettler, and has two children, a son and a daughter, Lafe and Ida, the latter of whom married Otto Dammeyer. Lafe Neuman, who, as noted above, is now operating the home farm, married Ida Bushman and has four children, Violet, Alfreda, Mary and Leta. The Neumans have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1, out of New Bremen. They are Republicans and are members of St. Peter's Evangelical church at New Bremen. John F. Neuman formerly was a member of the board of trustees of that congregation.

FRED D. BACOME, proprietor of the restaurant at Uniopolis and one of the best known young business men in that pleasant village, is a member of one of the pioneer families of that part of the county. He was born on a farm in Union township on February 6, 1891, and is a son of David and Christine (VanScyock) Bacome, both members of old families here and who are now living on their farm in that township. David Bacome is a son of James and Polly Bacome, who were among the pioneers of Union township. James Bacome came here from Knox county, Ohio, during settlement days and located on a parcel of land which he had bought in section 2 of Union township, where he established his home and spent the remainder of his life, one of the useful pioneers of that section. David Bacome was born on that place and there grew to manhood. For some time after his marriage he continued engaged in farming there and then bought the farm of eighty-seven acres on which he is now living in Union township and has since made his home on this latter place. He and his wife have four children, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Sylvia and Flora, and a brother, Clyde Bacome. Reared on the home farm in Union township, Fred D. Bacome received his schooling in the neighborhood school and after his marriage remained on the home farm, helpful in the labors of cultivating and improving the same, until in 1920, when he left the farm and bought the restaurant at Uniopolis and has since been engaged in business at that place. Mr. Bacome has a well equipped place of business and since taking possession of the restaurant has done much to develop the establishment and bring its service up to modern standards of excellence. It was on October 17, 1913, that

Fred D. Bacome was united in marriage to Sarah Sanders, who was born in the neighboring county of Allen, daughter of Harvey Sanders, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Donald Bacome. Mr. Bacome is a Democrat and in his fraternal relations is affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Uniopolis and with that of the Masons at Waynesfield. He is an alert young business man and since becoming engaged in business at Uniopolis has taken an active part in the general commercial life of that village.

JOHN E. BAYLIFF, M. D., one of Auglaize county's widely known physicians, who for years has been engaged in practice at Uniopolis, where he has his home, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here, and has resided here all his life. Doctor Bayliff was born on September 3, 1861, and is a son of Louis P. and Christina Elizabeth (Waggoner) Bayliff, both of whom also were born in this county, their respective parents having been among the pioneers of the eastern part of the county, which at the time of the settlement here of these families was attached to Allen county. The late Louis P. Bayliff, who for many years was one of the leading teachers in the schools of Auglaize county, was born on a farm in Clay township and was a son of Joel and Peggy (Copeland) Bayliff, who were among the pioneers of that section of the county. Joel Bayliff, who came here from Pennsylvania in the early '30s of the past century, entered from the Government a claim to a quarter of a section of land in section 12 of what is now Clay township, and was living there when, in December, 1834, the commissioners of Allen county granted a petition of the settlers who had by that time located thereabout to have a township organization of their own "to be designated and known by the name of Clay." He was clerk of the first election held in this township and in that election was elected treasurer of the township. In other ways he did his part in the formative period of that now flourishing and well-established community and was thus one of the influential and helpful pioneers of that region, where he spent the remainder of his life, he and his sons doing well their part in helping to bring about proper social conditions in the community. Louis P. Bayliff completed his schooling at Antioch College under the inspiring influence of Horace Mann and devoted his life to public service as a teacher of the youth of his home county, for more than thirty-five years giving of the best that was in him to schoolroom service. Mr. Bayliff died on January 12, 1902, and at his passing left a good memory. His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred in 1869, when the subject of this sketch was but eight years of age. There were five children of this family, of whom three are still living, Doctor Bayliff having a sister, Eliza-

DR. JOHN E. BAYLIFF AND FAMILY

beth, and a brother, George J. Bayliff. Two daughters, Amanda J. and Ella, are deceased. Reared on the Bayliff place in the vicinity of St. Johns, Doctor Bayliff completed his public schooling by attendance on the Wapakoneta high school, and for six years thereafter was engaged as a teacher in the schools of this county, meantime giving his attention to preliminary studies in medicine, and then entered Pulte Medical College at Cincinnati, which institution later merged with others and became a department of the Ohio State University, and after a course of four years of study there was graduated from that institution in 1887. Upon receiving his degree Doctor Bayliff returned to Wapakoneta and opened there an office for the practice of his profession. Two years later he established his present practice at Uniopolis and has since made his home in that pleasant village, where he and his family are very pleasantly situated. On April 12, 1886, a year prior to his graduation from medical college, Dr. John E. Bayliff was united in marriage to Lucinda J. Howe, daughter of T. D. Howe, of Uniopolis, and to this union two sons have been born, Walter and Russell, both of whom are at home. Doctor Bayliff is a member of the Ohio State Medical Society and of the Auglaize County Medical Society. He is a Democrat and for four years served as clerk of Union township. The Doctor is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge at St. Paris, Ohio.

EARL F. KENT, principal of the Clay township consolidated public schools at St. Johns and a well known resident of Wapakoneta, where he makes his home, was born at Uniopolis on May 8, 1893, and is a son of Robert F. and Sarah Jane (Copeland) Kent, both members of pioneer families in Union township, this county, and who are still living in the vicinity of Uniopolis. Robert F. Kent was reared to farming and for some time followed that vocation, but is now employed on mill work in the lumber yard at Uniopolis. He and his wife have four children, the subject of this sketch having three brothers, Herman, Russell and Howard Kent. Reared at Uniopolis, Earl F. Kent received his schooling in the schools of that village and in 1913 became licensed to teach school and in the fall of that year began teaching his first term of school, this having been in Stokes township in the neighboring county of Logan. Since then Mr. Kent has been engaged in teaching, meanwhile continuing his studies, and has taken six summer courses in Ohio Northern University at Ada. After his first school in Logan county he began teaching in Auglaize county and has ever since been thus engaged here, for four years a teacher in the schools of Logan township, two years in Duchouquet township and his second year as principal of the consolidated schools at St. Johns, where his wife is also engaged as a teacher. It was on February 2, 1914, that Earl F. Kent was united

in marriage to Lela Shaffer, also a member of one of the old families of this county. Mrs. Kent was born at Cridersville and is a daughter of Henry and Clara (Moyer) Shaffer. She supplemented the schooling received in the schools of her home town by attendance for several terms on the summer course at Ohio Northern University and for the past six years has been engaged as a teacher in the schools of this county, now a teacher in the St. John's school. Mr. and Mrs. Kent have a pleasant home at Wapakoneta. They are members of Grace English Lutheran church.

WILLIAM J. SETTLAGE, one of Washington township's well known farmers and proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, was born on the farm on which he is now living and has lived there all his life. Mr. Settlage was born on November 13, 1877, and is a son of William and Mary (Katterheinrich) Settlage, the latter of whom was born in that same township, a member of the well known pioneer Katterheinrich family which still is so largely represented in this county. William Settlage was born in Cincinnati and was but a child when his parents, Henry A. and Mary E. (Katterheinrich) Settlage, natives of Germany, left that city and came up here into this section of Ohio. Henry A. Settlage was a blacksmith and for some years after coming here followed that vocation at New Bremen. He then bought a farm in Washington township and on this latter place spent the remainder of his life. William Settlage was about fifteen years of age when his parents moved onto the farm there along Center creek in the north half of section 18 of Washington township, about two miles north and west of New Knoxville, and he grew to manhood there. After his marriage he established his home on that place, eventually became the owner of a fine farm of 103 acres, the place now owned by his son, William J., and there spent his last days, his death occurring in 1912. William Settlage was twice married. By his first wife, Rebecca Meyers, he had two sons who grew to maturity, Herman and August C. Settlage. By his union with Mary Katterheinrich he had nine children, those besides the subject of this sketch, the fourth in order of birth, being Sarah, Callie, Matilda, Henry, Flora, Elizabeth, Pauline and Anna, all of whom are living save Matilda, who died in 1921. Reared on the home farm, William J. Settlage received his schooling in the neighborhood school (district No. 4), and from the days of his boyhood was attentive to the affairs of the farm. After his marriage he rented the home acres and carried on operations there on that basis until after his father's death in 1912, when he bought the home place of 103 acres and has since been proprietor of the same, in the meantime making numerous improvements, including the erection of a modern dwelling house in 1918, and now has an admirably equipped farm plant. In addition

to his general farming, Mr. Settlage gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. In his political views he leans to the "independents," of whom there seem to be a continually growing number in this county. William J. Settlage married Ida Wellman, also a member of one of the old families of Washington township, and to this union three children have been born, Rufus, Ruth, and Adrian. Mr. and Mrs. Settlage are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville and Mr. Settlage has served the congregation of that church as a teacher in the Sunday school. Mrs. Settlage was born in Washington township and is a daughter of Herman and Caroline (Katterheinrich) Wellman, both of whom were born in that same township, members of pioneer families there. Herman Wellman for years farmed in Washington township and then moved to St. Marys township, where he is now living, the owner of a farm of ninety-three acres. To him and his wife were born ten children, those besides Mrs. Settlage being William, Conrad, Sarah, Ferdinand, Elizabeth, Edward, Ella, Priscilla and Gertrude.

CONRAD KOEPER, one of the well-known and substantial farmers and landowners of German township and proprietor of a well-improved farm northwest of New Bremen, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. Mr. Koeper was born on May 5, 1856, and is a son of Henry and Anna (Seimer) Koeper, both of whom were born in Germany, and the latter of whom was but a child when she came to this country with her parents, the family settling in the New Bremen neighborhood. The late Henry Koeper grew to young manhood in his native country, where his circumstances in life were such as to offer little hope for material advancement, and he decided to come to America and seek his fortune amid the more promising conditions which seemed to offer hope to a young man. When he landed in this country he was in debt for his passage, but he felt assured of his right to a proper livelihood. He had letters of introduction to "old country" folk at New Bremen, and he came on out here and put in his lot with that of the people of that town, which then, on account of the growing interests which were being developed around the canal traffic, was regarded as one of the most promising towns in northwestern Ohio. For some time after settling at New Bremen he was engaged working as a carpenter, and by this means earned a sum of money sufficient to discharge the obligation incurred by his passage across the ocean and to encourage him to become a landowner. He also saw his way clear to marriage. After his marriage he bought a "forty" just off the old Wayne trail (the St. Marys-New Bremen road)—the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 4—a mile or more west of north of New Bremen, and there established his home. He cleared and improved that place, and as his affairs prospered added to his land holdings until he be-

came the owner of a fine farm of 216 acres, and there he made his home until his death at the age of eighty-seven years. He and his wife were the parents of six children, those besides the subject of this sketch (the second in order of birth) being August, Mary, Sophia, Louise and Henry. Reared on the home farm, Conrad Koeper received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and was early trained in the ways of practical farming. He remained with his father on the farm, and after his marriage rented the home place and began farming on his own account, establishing his home there. Upon the death of his father and the consequent distribution of the estate, he received 130 acres of the home place and has since continued to reside there. He has his farm under a fine state of cultivation and has an excellent farm plant, long having been recognized as one of the progressive farmers of the community. Conrad Koeper married Lena Dicke, and to this union two sons have been born, Harry and Ernest, both of whom are unmarried and living at home, associated with their father in his farming operations. The Koepers are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen and are Democrats. They have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of New Bremen. Mrs. Koeper was born at Wabash, Ind., and is a daughter of Deitrich Dicke, who later moved to a farm in the vicinity of Ft. Wayne, in Allen county, Indiana.

HENRY DEERHAKE, one of the well-known farmers and landowners of Washington township, proprietor of a well-kept place on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, was born on a farm along the Wapakoneta-St. Marys road, in the extreme northwest corner of Washington township, June 22, 1871, and is a son of William E. and Christina (Haberkamp) Deerhake, the latter of whom also was born in Washington township, a member of one of the pioneer families there, and the former of whom is still living on the old home place there. William E. Deerhake is a native of Germany, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty-one years of age, having come here with his parents, Adolph and Catherine (Luebke) Deerhake, in 1871, the family settling in Washington township, as is set out elsewhere in this volume. After his marriage, William E. Deerhake bought the farm on which he is now living, in the northwest quarter of section 6 of Washington township, and has ever since resided there. It was on this farm that Henry Deerhake was born and grew to manhood. He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and as a lad was helpful in the labors of the farm, continuing thus engaged with his father until his marriage, at the age of twenty-five, also working during the winters in a saw mill for five years, and then moved onto the fifty-acre farm where he is now living, in that same part of the township, and has since resided there, a period of twenty-six years. It was in 1896 that Henry Deerhake

was united in marriage to Anna Luft, who also was born in Washington township, and to this union have been born eleven children, nine of whom are still living, Leroy, Lydia, Raymond, Homer, Mary, Clara, Edna, Vernon and Mildred. Mr. and Mrs. Deerhake are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville and are "independent" Republicans. Mr. Deerhake has given proper attention to local civic affairs and has served as school director in his district. Mrs. Deerhake was born in Washington township and is a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (Wierwille) Luft, the latter of whom was a member of the well-known pioneer Wierwille family of that township. Christian Luft, who was a harnessmaker, died when his daughter, Anna (Mrs. Deerhake), was six weeks old. Mrs. Deerhake has two sisters, Amelia and Malinda. Elsewhere in this volume there is further mention of both the Deerhake and the Wierwille families, both of these families having been represented here since pioneer days. Mr. Deerhake has a sister, Helena, and two brothers, Benjamin and William Deerhake.

WILLIAM EASTERLY, a well-known farmer and landowner of Salem township, where he has made his home for the past thirty years or more, was born in that township on March 17, 1863, and is a son of Frederick and Catherine Magdalena (Ashbacher) Easterly, both of whom were born in Germany and had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their childhood. Frederick Easterly was but a small boy when his parents came to America with their family and proceeded on out into Ohio and settled in Crawford county, where he grew to manhood and was married. After his marriage he came to Auglaize county and bought a tract of forty acres of uncleared land in Salem township, but not long afterward disposed of that place and returned to Crawford county. The lure of Auglaize county, however, was too strong to resist, and it was not long until he returned here and bought a sixty-acre farm in Noble township, where he established his home and spent the remainder of his life, adding to his holdings there until he became the owner of a fine farm of 190 acres. Frederick Easterly was twice married. By his first wife (Catherine Magdalena Ashbacher) he was the father of four children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Matilda, Charles and Louis. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Easterly married Caroline Hausmann, and to that union were born four children, Clara, Anna, Cora and Emma. William Easterly was but a lad when his father established his home in Noble township (in the southwest quarter of section 10), and he grew to manhood there, receiving his schooling in the school house (district No. 2) which stood at the cross roads bordering the Easterly farm on the south and west. After his marriage, when about twenty-five years of age, he rented his father's farm and was for two

years thus engaged in farming that place on his own account. He then, in 1890, bought a tract of 100 acres in Salem township, the place on which he is now living, and has ever since resided there. To that tract he added by the purchase of an adjoining tract of twenty acres and now has a well-improved and profitably cultivated place of 120 acres, all of which has been cleared save a five-acre woodlot. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Easterly gives proper attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. He is a Democrat and has rendered public service as a school director in his district. He is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Kossuth, and of the encampment of that order at Spencerville, and is also affiliated with the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry at Kossuth, while he and his family are connected with the St. Paul's Reformed church at St. Marys. William Easterly married Rebecca Croft, daughter of Christian and Phoebe (Zimmerman) Croft, and to this union have been born seven children, all of whom are living save one (John), the others being Alma, Laura, Delilah, Norma, Marie and Frederick, all unmarried save Marie, wife of Robert Montague. The Easterlys have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys.

E. C. KUENZEL, secretary of the Kuenzel Mills Company of New Bremen, was born at New Bremen on May 30, 1865, and is a son of John A. and Wilhelmina (Mohrman) Kuenzel, natives of Germany, who early became established at New Bremen, and who in their generation were recognized as among the most useful and influential members of that community. The late John A. Kuenzel, one of the founders of the woolen mills at New Bremen and former postmaster of that place, was sixteen years of age when he came to this country from Germany and located at Louisville, Ky. He had had some training as a shoemaker in his home land, and upon taking up his residence at Louisville began working there as a shoemaker. Not long afterward he came up into Ohio and settled at New Bremen, where he had kinsfolk, and opened a shoe shop. That was in the days when custom-made boots and shoes were much more commonly worn than now, and it was not long until the excellent character of the output of his shop had attracted a good trade. The activities attendant on the operation of the canal then were at their height and New Bremen was a busy place. Mr. Kuenzel married here and "settled down." He did well in his business and presently was made postmaster of the town. After awhile it became apparent that New Bremen offered an excellent site for the erection of a woolen mill, and Mr. Kuenzel became one of the founders of the mill which still bears his name, and with which he continued connected until his death. It was during the time of his active connection with this important industrial enterprise that a merger was effected with the

flouring mill, and since that time the woolen mill and the flour mill, there along the canal in the center of the town, have been operated under the one management. When the woolen mill was organized, in 1868, it was operated under the firm name of Finke, Bakhaus & Kuenzel, and so continued until the time of the incorporation of the company, in 1899, under the name of the Bakhaus-Kuenzel Company. Since the time of the company's reorganization, on January 7, 1914, the business of this dual industry has been carried on under the firm style of the Kuenzel Mills Company, Godfrey Kuenzel, elder son of John A. Kuenzel, being the president of the company and giving his particular attention to the details of the flouring mill, even as his brother, E. C. Kuenzel, secretary of the company, gives his technical attention to the operation of the woolen mill. When the woolen mill was started it was operated simply as a neighborhood custom mill, its product being confined to satinets, flannels, jeans, yarn and batting, but as its operations expanded it began to develop outside trade and has long given special attention to the manufacture of blankets and blanket cloth, the only woolen mill known that specializes in the latter line, its celebrated "Kuneta" blanket cloth being in wide demand. Its "New Bremen" brand of blankets also are in wide demand and it turns out no fewer than 30,000 pairs of these annually. There are forty-seven persons employed in the woolen mill, and eight in the flour mill. This latter mill has a capacity of ninety barrels a day and specializes in its widely known brand of "Gold Lace" flour. E. C. Kuenzel, secretary of the operating company in charge of these mills, was reared at New Bremen, where he received his schooling. Upon leaving school he went to the neighboring town of St. Marys, where for two years he was engaged in clerking in a grocery store. He then went West and presently located at Syracuse, Neb., where after awhile he became engaged in the banking business, and where he remained for eleven years, at the end of which time he moved to Chicago, where he made his home for ten years, or until the death of his father, when he returned to New Bremen, it becoming necessary for him to assume his father's interest in the mills there, and he since has given his undivided attention to the promotion of these extensive milling interests. Mr. Kuenzel is a Republican and has served the public as a member of the New Bremen town council. He and his wife are members of the Zion Reformed church, in the faith of which church their children have been reared, and he is a Freemason of high degree, a member of the blue lodge at St. Marys, and of the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the Valley of Dayton (Northern Masonic jurisdiction). He also is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen. In 1893 E. C. Kuenzel was united in marriage to Myra Hunter, of Kansas City, Mo., and to this union five children have been born, namely: Hunter

Kuenzel, who was graduated from the New Bremen high school and is now an automotive engineer in the employ of the Premier Motor Corporation, at Indianapolis; Myra W., who is now a student in Ohio State University; Harriet H., a school teacher, who is now a student at Heidelberg University, at Tiffin; Alvis L., who was graduated from the New Bremen high school in 1922 and is now attending the state normal school at Bowling Green, and David E., who is attending high school. Hunter Kuenzel is a veteran of the World war with an overseas record, having rendered service as a private in the coast artillery with the American Expeditionary Force in France.

CHARLES F. HERBST, president of the First National Bank of Wapakoneta, largely interested in other financial and industrial enterprises in that city, one of the largest landowners in this section of Ohio and for years regarded as one of the leading figures in the civic and commercial life of this community, is the third of his name to carry on successfully here since the coming of his grandfather to this region back in pioneer days, even in the days before Auglaize county had been organized as a separate civic entity, and in carrying on the family fortunes established in the prior generations is doing well. Mr. Herbst was born at Wapakoneta on September 8, 1876, and is the son and only child of Charles F. and Julia (Franz) Herbst, the latter of whom is still living at Wapakoneta, she and her son maintaining their home together. The senior Charles F. Herbst, a veteran of the Civil war and formerly and for years one of the foremost figures in the commercial life of Wapakoneta, who died at his home in that city twelve years and more ago, was born in Wapakoneta in 1847, the year before the county seat was erected there, Auglaize county not having been erected until in 1848, and was a son of Charles F. Herbst (I), a native of Germany, who had come to this country in the late '30s of the past century, following the unsuccessful political revolution which the freedom-loving people of his native land had undertaken about that time, and who came out here into western Ohio, which then was little better than a wilderness, and thus became one of the pioneers of the region now comprised within the confines of Auglaize county. He was a blacksmith by trade, and upon his arrival here opened a blacksmith shop at Wapakoneta, which then was but a straggling backwoods village, and established his home here. He later became interested in farming and became a substantial landowner here, his last days being spent on the farm which was the nucleus of the present extensive Herbst land holdings in this county. Charles F. Herbst (II) received his schooling in the rather indifferent public school maintained at Wapakoneta during the days of his boyhood and was fourteen years of age when the Civil war broke out. Before that long struggle between the states was over, however, he got into it, enlisting his services in behalf of

CHARLES F. HERBST, SR.

CHARLES F. HERBST, JR.

the cause of the Union when seventeen years of age, in September, 1864, and going to the front as a private in Company A of the 179th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served until he received his discharge in June, 1865, the war then being over. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Herbst returned to Wapakoneta, but not long afterward became interested in the possibilities awaiting young men out in Iowa and went to that state on a general prospecting trip. He had learned the rudiments of the tinner's trade and in Iowa he worked as a tinner for several years, at the end of which time he returned to Wapakoneta and set up a tin shop there, and after his marriage established his home in that city. It was in 1874 that Mr. Herbst became engaged in the tinning business at Wapakoneta, and he continued thus engaged for five years, or until about 1880, when he gave up that line and became engaged in the general loan, insurance and collections business there, a line which he ever afterward followed, and which his son has maintained since his death. Mr. Herbst was a man of much energy, and this energy found outlet along several other lines of a commercial and industrial character, including the interest he took in promoting the interests of the Wapakoneta Bending Company, one of the chief woodworking industries of that place at that time, and which afterward was merged into the woodworking plant at St. Marys, now operated by the Crane & MacMahon interests. When the First National Bank of Wapakoneta was organized, in 1884, he was elected cashier of that concern, and thus added banking to the varied interests he was assuming. Later he became interested in a manufacturing project at Chicago and moved to that city, along in the middle '90s, and there remained for five years, or until 1901, when he returned to his established home at Wapakoneta and there resumed the general loan and real estate business, which he had maintained there during his absence, and continued thus engaged the rest of his life, his death occurring there on August 1, 1910. The junior Charles F. Herbst (III) received his early schooling in the schools of Wapakoneta, and when the family moved to Chicago he entered the law school of Northwestern University and was graduated from that institution. Upon the family's return to Wapakoneta he became associated with his father there in the loan business, under the firm style of Herbst & Son, and this mutually agreeable arrangement was continued until his father's death, since which time he has carried on the business alone, some years ago having erected an attractive office building on Auglaize street. His father had retained his interest in the First National Bank, and after his father's death, in 1910, he assumed this interest. When, two years later, in 1912, L. N. Blume, president of the bank, died, Mr. Herbst was elected president of the bank and has since been retained in

that executive position. The large real estate interests created by his father also have been retained and extended, until now Mr. Herbst is the owner of more than 2,000 acres of land in this county. In addition to these interests Mr. Herbst has other business connections, these including membership in the directorate of the Wapakoneta Wheel Company, of which concern he is the treasurer, and in the directorate of the Brown Company, another woodworking concern at Wapakoneta, and in the Wapakoneta Savings Company. He also is a member of the board of trustees of beautiful Greenlawn cemetery, and all the interests represented by him are represented with a whole-hearted energy that makes his presence felt in whatever enterprise he takes a hand. Mr. Herbst is an ardent Republican and has for years been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in this section of the state. For years he served his party as chairman of the county central committee and in season and out of season has kept the interests of the party to the front, so that it is but natural that the recent successes of the party in this county, beginning with the memorable election of 1920 and emphasized in the election of 1922, have been the source of much satisfaction to him. Mr. Herbst is a Freemason, has attained to the Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of the northern Masonic jurisdiction, valley of Dayton, and is also a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with the temple of that order at Dayton. He also is a member of the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the Loyal Order of Moose at Wapakoneta.

H. E. HUCKERIEDE, a well-known poultryman at New Knoxville, and who formerly and for years was engaged in the harness business and shoe repair line at that place, was born on a farm in St. Marys township, this county, April 18, 1868, and is a son of August and Catherine (Schmidt) Huckeriede, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families in German township. August Huckeriede was born in Germany and was but a babe hardly one year old when his parents came to this country with their family and settled on a woodland farm in the New Bremen neighborhood, in this county, where he grew to manhood, well trained in the details of developing a pioneer farm. After his marriage he took up farming on his own account, became the owner of a farm of ninety acres in St. Marys township, and continued actively engaged in farming the rest of his life. He and his wife were the parents of six children, four of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Lillie, and two brothers, Benjamin and William Huckeriede. Reared on the farm, H. E. Huckeriede received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home, in the lower part of St. Marys township, and remained

with his father on the farm, aiding in the development and improvement of the same, until after his marriage, when he bought a farm of fifty acres in Van Buren township, Shelby county, where he made his home for ten years, at the end of which time he disposed of his interests in that county and returned to Auglaize county and bought a tract of thirty-seven and one-half acres off his father's place in St. Marys township and settled down there to farm. Some time later, however, he left the farm and moved to New Knoxville, where he became engaged in the harness business and also put in a power-equipped plant for shoe repairs. Mr. Huckeriede continued engaged along this line at New Knoxville until 1922, when failing health compelled him to leave the shop and get outdoors. He sold his plant and has since been giving his attention to the raising of chickens, going into the business on a somewhat extensive scale, with many promises of success. He has a well-equipped poultry yard and is creating a wide demand for the products of his plant. H. E. Huckeriede married Flora Roettger, who was born in German township, daughter of William Roettger, and a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, and to this union two daughters have been born, Olga, who died at the age of five years, and Esther. Mr. and Mrs. Huckeriede are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville and are Republicans. Mr. Huckeriede has long taken an active interest in the affairs of the congregation of the Reformed church and is now an elder of the congregation. His long connection with the business interests of his home town has given him a wide acquaintance throughout that part of the county. Mrs. Huckeriede's father, William Roettger, who is now making his home with the Huckeriede family, has reached the great age of eighty-nine years, and has thus witnessed the development of this community since pioneer days.

JOHN D. FRITZ, one of the trustees of Clay township, proprietor of a farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Johns, was born at Wapakoneta on December 5, 1876, and is a son of John D. and Mary (Pruser) Fritz, the latter of whom was born in Pusheta township and is still living, making her home on her farm in Moulton township. The late John D. Fritz, Sr., was a native of Germany and was but a lad when he came to this country with his parents, the family settling on a farm in Pusheta township, where he grew to manhood and was living when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted his services in behalf of the Union cause and went to the front as a soldier. Upon the completion of his military service he took up the carpenter trade and located at Wapakoneta. After his marriage he established his home there and continued to reside in that city until 1881, when he bought a farm of 101 acres in Moulton township and moved onto the same. There he spent the remainder of his

life and there his widow still makes her home. They were the parents of nine children, eight of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Edith, Louise and Christina, and four brothers, Charles, Hartman, Louis and Albert Fritz. The junior John D. Fritz was but five years of age when his parents moved to their farm in Moulton township, and there he grew to manhood. He married when twenty-one years of age and located at Buckland, becoming engaged as a pumper in the local oil field, and was thus engaged for six years, at the end of which time he bought the farm on which he is now living in Clay township and has since made his home there. Mr. Fritz has a farm of seventy-two acres, and since taking possession of the place has remodeled the buildings and made numerous up-to-date improvements, including the installation of a local electric light plant. He is a Republican and has been serving for some time as one of the trustees of Clay township. On June 7, 1892, John D. Fritz, Jr., was united in marriage to Mary Kohler, daughter of Andrew and Pauline (Pfaff) Kohler, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Karl Fritz, born on March 25, 1895, a well-known young farmer of Clay township, who married Ada I. Rostorfer and has one child, a son, Dwaine. Mr. and Mrs. Fritz are members of the Lutheran church at Wapakoneta, and Mr. Fritz is a member of the local tent of the Knights of the Maccabees in that city.

WILLIAM F. DICKE, assessor of German township and a well-known farmer and landowner living a mile or more northeast of New Bremen, in section 2 of German township, was born on that farm and has been a resident of this county all his life. Mr. Dicke was born on May 21, 1870, and is a son of Cord and Minnie (Hartman) Dicke, natives of Germany, who were married in that country, but whose last days were spent in this county. Cord Dicke was reared in his native land and as a young man came to America, and after a bit of prospecting in Wisconsin came to Ohio and bought a tract of land northeast of New Bremen, in this county, the place on which his son, William, is now living. He made some initial improvements on that place and then returned to Germany for the girl to whom he had plighted his troth before coming to this country. After his marriage he and his wife came here and established their home on the farm above referred to and became useful and influential members of that community. Cord Dicke was a good farmer, and as his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of 200 acres of land, but before his death sold forty acres of this. To him and his wife were born seven children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Sophia, Louisa and Alvina, and two brothers, August and Henry Dicke. Reared on the home farm in German township, William F. Dicke re-

ceived his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in the ways of practical farming. After his marriage he began farming for himself on a tract of seventy-four acres, a part of his father's original land holdings, which he had bought, and there established his home. Since then he has made substantial improvements on the place and has an admirable farm plant. He also has added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of 200 acres, including a farm in the neighboring county of Shelby, which he also farms, and on this latter place also has a substantial set of buildings. Mr. Dicke gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and feeds his grain, believing that therein lies the true profit of grain farming. Mr. Dicke has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and is now serving as assessor of German township. He also has rendered public service as a member of the local board of education. William F. Dicke married Flora Heitkamp, daughter of Fred Heitkamp, also a member of one of the old families of this county, and to this union have been born seven children, Clara, Orelia, Ferdinand, Orla, Alma, Wilbur and Elvira, the two first named of whom are married and the others living at home. Clara Dicke married Louis Puppe and has two children, Rachel and Carl. Orelia Dicke married Omar Reese and has one child, a daughter, Louise. The Dickes are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen, and Mr. Dicke has served as a member of the board of trustees of that congregation.

JESSE HUDSON, a well-known farmer and landowner of St. Marys township, now living practically retired at his pleasant home in the south half of section 24 of that township, rural mail route No. 4 out of St. Marys, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. Mr. Hudson was born on September 21, 1855, and is a son of Elijah and Margaret (Combs) Hudson, the latter of whom also was born in Ohio, a member of one of the pioneer families in this section of the state. Elijah Hudson was born in Pennsylvania and was early trained to the life of the farm, a vocation he followed through life. After his marriage he established his home on the farm above mentioned, on the Center branch of the St. Marys river, and there spent the remainder of his life, one of the useful pioneers of that neighborhood, the owner of a farm of 180 acres, and in early days widely known as a live stock man. To him and his wife were born nine children, all of whom are still living, save two daughters, Isadora and Priscilla, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being William, John, Mollie, Mattie, Curt and Albert. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, Jesse Hudson received his schooling in the Miller school house (district No. 4), and from the days of his boyhood was a helpful factor in the labors of developing the farm. After his marriage he rented from his father that portion of the

home farm on which he is now living, established his home there, and has ever since made that his place of residence. Mr. Hudson is the owner of a well-improved tract of sixty-five acres and has a very comfortable home. He continued actively engaged in farming until an illness three or four years ago warned him to take things a bit easier, and he since has been renting his fields. He is a Democrat. On November 2, 1880, Jesse Hudson was united in marriage to Mollie A. Huffman, one of his neighbor girls, and to this union two children were born, a son and a daughter, Jesse Jr. and Lillie M., both of whom are living. Jesse Hudson Jr., who is now the assistant manager of the telephone plant at St. Marys, married Minnie Graham and has two children, Eudora and Vincent. Lillie M. Hudson married Arnold Yingling, who is now in charge of the great state fish hatchery in the Grand Reservoir (Lake St. Marys), and has two children, Mary M. and Frederick E. Mrs. Mollie A. Hudson was born on a farm in the southwest quarter of section 12 of St. Marys township and is a daughter of Samuel and Cerena (Longwith) Huffman, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that part of the county, the Huffmans and the Longwiths having been among the early settlers in the eastern part of St. Marys township. Samuel Huffman was a well-to-do farmer and he and his wife were the parents of five children, all of whom are living save one, Ella, who died at the age of sixty-four years, the others, besides Mrs. Hudson, being Frank, Samuel and Otto Huffman. Mrs. Hudson's schooling was received in the old Barrington school (district No. 2), on the Sidney pike, about a mile east of the corporate limits of St. Marys.

EARL B. WINGET, proprietor of the extensive lightning-rod assembling plant at Wapakoneta, and doing business there under the name of the Wapakoneta Lightning Rod Company, carrying on in the third generation the business that was established at that place by Luther Winget, his grandfather, nearly sixty years ago, was born at Wapakoneta and has lived there all his life, being now recognized as one of the most energetic young business men of that city. Mr. Winget was born on June 16, 1885, and is a son of Frank M. and Ella (Elliott) Winget, both of whom were born in this same county, members of pioneer families here, and the latter of whom is still living. The late Frank M. Winget was a son of Luther Winget, who in 1865 became engaged in the lightning-rod business at Wapakoneta and established the concern which has since been maintained as a Winget interest. Following the death of his father, Frank M. Winget, who had been associated with his father in this work, reorganized the business in 1879 and carried it along alone until in 1902, when he took his son, Earl, into partnership with him and carried on under the name of Winget & Son, continuing thus engaged until his death on January 12, 1922, since which time Earl B. Winget has been

carrying on the business alone. To Frank M. Winget and wife were born four children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Caroline Cook, and two brothers, Clarence E. and Luther R. Winget. Reared at Wapakoneta, Earl B. Winget received his schooling in the city schools, and when seventeen years of age (in 1902) became associated with his father in the lightning-rod business, a line which he has ever since followed, and in which he has been very successful. Following the death of his father, in 1922, he bought the latter's half interest in the business and is now sole proprietor of a business which during the years of his connection therewith has expanded from the sales force of but two persons—himself and his father—to the present force of twelve salesmen and a crew of five erectors. Mr. Winget now has a "fleet" of fifteen automobiles and the territory covered by his operations takes in no fewer than thirteen counties hereabout, including Auglaize county. Mr. Winget takes an interested and intelligent part in local civic affairs and has served as a member of the city council. He is an active member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. On November 1, 1905, Earl B. Winget was united in marriage to Minnie Fuelling, also of Wapakoneta, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Geraldine, born on October 19, 1906, who died on January 5, 1914; Helen C., born on October 3, 1910, and Marguerite E., February 7, 1913. Mrs. Winget was born at Wapakoneta and is a daughter of Daniel and Margaret (Stephen) Fuelling, the former of whom formerly and for years was engaged in the drug business in that city. Few men hereabout have a wider acquaintance than Mr. Winget. As was written of him some years ago, during the time he was serving in the city council, "upright and honest business dealings and an unusual generosity toward all public enterprises have made for him a host of friends throughout the county." And this is as much so now as it was then.

WILLIAM SUNDERMAN, a well-known and substantial bachelor farmer and landowner of Washington township, now living retired on his well-kept place on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, a mile north of the pleasant village of New Knoxville, was born on that place and has lived there all his life, a period of nearly eighty years. Mr. Sunderman was born on February 12, 1844, and is the only son of William and Christina (Steinicker) Sunderman, natives of Germany, who were married in that country and then came to America and became pioneers of this section of Ohio. The senior William Sunderman was but a poor man, a shepherd and peat cutter in his home land, and after his marriage he decided that the thing to do was to go to America and seek the advantages and opportunities which he knew never could come to him in his own country.

It required all the money he could raise to pay for the passage of himself and wife over and carry them out here into western Ohio, which was his objective upon leaving the old country, and when he got here he began working on the canal, which then was being constructed up through this part of the state. By this means he earned a sufficient sum of money to give him a start as a landowner and he bought a woodland "forty" in the south half of section 18 of Washington township, about a mile north of the then developing village of New Knoxville, erected a log cabin on the place and settled down to make a farm out of his woods tract. He did well in his operations and gradually increased his holdings until he became the owner of a farm of 133 acres, the place now owned by his son, William, and there he spent his last days. His widow survived him for years, she and her son carrying on the operations of the farm in common until her death. There was another child in this family, a daughter, Mary (now deceased), who married William Grewe, and whose daughter, Emma, married William Schultz, who is now farming the Sunderman place, he and his wife keeping the house for Mr. Sunderman. It was in the little log cabin, the first home of the pioneer Sundermans on this place, that the junior William Sunderman was born, this house in time being supplanted by a substantial dwelling house. The boy William received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and until the death of his father was a valuable aid to the latter in the labors of clearing and developing the home place. Afterward he carried on the farm in his mother's behalf, and after her death took over the place and has continued to make his home there, his niece and her husband having been in charge since his retirement some years ago from the active labors of the farm. Mr. Sunderman has a well-equipped farm plant and his operations have always been carried on systematically. He is a member of the Reformed church at New Knoxville and in his political views is independent of party affiliation. William Schultz, who is now carrying on the operation of the Sunderman farm, also was born in Washington township, December 29, 1868, and is a son of Helmuth and Mary (Thielk) Schultz, natives of Germany, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth and after their marriage had settled on a farm of sixty-five acres adjoining the Sunderman farm on the south. For ten years after coming to this country Helmuth Schultz made his home at Dayton, Ohio, and then came up here and settled on his farm north of New Knoxville. He and his wife had eight children, four of whom are still living, William Schultz having three brothers, Joseph, John and Louis Schultz. Reared on the home farm, William Schultz received his schooling in the New Knoxville schools and worked along with his father until after his marriage, when he rented his father's farm and continued to make

his home there until he rented the adjoining Sunderman farm, which he is now operating, his wife, Emma, daughter of William and Mary (Sunderman) Grewe, being a niece of Mr. Sunderman, as noted above. Mr. and Mrs. Schultz have three children, Laura, Oliver and Viola. The family are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville.

HARDY C. WHETSTONE, a member of one of the real pioneer families of Logan township and proprietor of an excellent farm on rural mail route No. 3 out of Wapakoneta, was born in that township and has lived there all his life, the present owner, in the third generation, of the place his grandfather entered from the Government back in pioneer days when the lands hereabout were being opened for settlement. Mr. Whetstone was born on September 17, 1858, and is a son of Jesse and Catherine (Richardson) Whetstone, the latter of whom was a member of the pioneer Richardson family so prominent in the early affairs of that part of the county. Jesse Whetstone was born in Ross county, Ohio, and was but a babe, not yet a year old, when his parents, Simon and Nancy (Hyer) Whetstone, came up into this part of the state and settled in the new lands here along the river in the old Ft. Amanda settlement. The date of their arrival here was April 21, 1821, long before Auglaize county was erected as a separate civic entity, these lands then lying in Allen county. Simon Whetstone, the pioneer, entered from the Government a tract of seventy-five acres west of the river in the southern part of section 27 of Logan township, about a mile and a half south of old Ft. Amanda, built a log cabin on his tract, established his home there and proceeded to clear the place and make a farm out of it. He later added to this an adjoining "forty" on the west, and still later bought another tract, until before his death he was the owner of a good farm of 160 acres. It was on this pioneer farm there along the river that Jesse Whetstone grew to manhood, becoming a practical farmer. After his marriage he bought an "eighty" in that neighborhood and was there engaged in farming until after the death of his father, when he sold that place and bought the home farm of 160 acres, to which he gradually added until he became the owner of 240 acres and was accounted one of the most substantial farmers of that section, and there he spent his last days. Jesse Whetstone was twice married. His first wife, Elizabeth Moorman, died two years after her marriage, without issue, and he then married Catherine Richardson, daughter of Daniel Richardson. To this latter union were born seven children, all of whom are living save two (Jennie and John H.), the subject of this sketch having a sister, Almeda, and three brothers, Daniel, Walter and Frank Whetstone. Reared on the home farm in Logan township, Hardy C. Whetstone received his schooling in the local schools, and from the

days of his boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the farm. He married when twenty-one years of age and then began farming on his own account, taking over a part of the home farm. After his father's death he bought seventy-five acres of the home place and has since added by purchase until now he has an excellent farm of 147 acres, which he has improved in up-to-date fashion and on which he has a well-equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Whetstone has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done well in his operations. In his political views Mr. Whetstone is "independent." He and his wife are members of the Christian church at Buckland, and he is a member of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. He has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and is now serving as school director in his district. It was on September 28, 1879, that Hardy C. Whetstone was united in marriage to Jennie Anderson, who was born in Harrison county, Ohio, daughter of Thomas and Mary (Walker) Anderson, and to this union three children have been born, Grace, Effie and Charles, the two latter of whom are deceased. Effie Whetstone married George Walters and died leaving seven children, Columbus, Ralph, Mary, Leah, Robert, Francis and Franklin D. Grace Whetstone is the wife of Wesley Fisher, of Logan township.

AUGUST KUEST, one of the best known farmers on the Amsterdam road in Jackson township and the proprietor of a well-improved farm there, was born on that farm on August 4, 1873, and is a son of Henry and Wilhelmina (Nuessmeyer) Kuest, the latter of whom also was born in this county, in German township, a member of one of the pioneer families of that section. The late Henry Kuest was a native of Germany and was but four years of age when he came to this country with his parents, John Jergen Kuest and wife, who became well established among the pioneers of this county. John Jergen Kuest entered from the Government a tract of land in German township and became a well-to-do farmer. Henry Kuest grew to manhood on that farm and as a young man worked for several years on the State boat on the canal. In 1869, following his marriage, he bought a tract of forty acres in section 21 of Jackson township, the place now owned and occupied by his son, August, and there established his home. His affairs prospered and he later added to his holdings there until he became the owner of a good farm of 100 acres, which he continued to farm until his death, in 1902. He and his wife had six children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch (the eldest) having three sisters, Ida, Emma and Anna, and a brother, John Kuest. Reared on the farm, August Kuest completed his schooling in the schools at New Bremen, and from the days of his boyhood his attention has been given to the affairs

of the farm. After the death of their father, he and his brother, John, carried on the operations of the farm in their mother's behalf for some time, and then August Kuest rented the farm and began to operate it himself. In 1914 he bought the home place of 100 acres and has continued to make his home there. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Kuest has made some important improvements to the place and now has a well equipped and up-to-date farm plant. In addition to his general farming, he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. Mr. Kuest is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs. For six years he served the public as superintendent of roads in his district, and he also served for two years as road supervisor, in this time having done much to advance the cause of better roads thereabout. August Kuest married Emily Kammann, daughter of William and Mary Kammann, both members of old families in this county, and to this union five children have been born, Irene, Helen, Marie, Harold and Lois. The Kuests have a very pleasant home on rural route No. 2 out of Minster. They are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen.

CHARLES A. SELLERS, one of the best known farmers in the Cridersville neighborhood and proprietor of a well-kept farm in the northeastern part of Duchouquet township, where he has lived all his life, is a member of one of the pioneer families of that part of the county, his grandfather, Leonard Sellers, having been one of the original settlers there, the Sellers interests thereabout coming in time to include large land holdings in that part of Duchouquet township and over in the northwestern corner of the adjacent township of Union. Charles A. Sellers was born in Duchouquet township on August 4, 1865, and is a son of Henry and Lavina (Danner) Sellers, the former of whom was a son of the pioneer Leonard Sellers, above referred to. Henry Sellers was born in Pennsylvania and was but a boy when he came to this county with his parents, the family settling on a woodland farm about a mile east of the Lima road in the upper part of Duchouquet township, where he grew to manhood and where, after his marriage, he began farming on his own account. He was a successful farmer and his land holdings gradually were increased until he became the owner of no less than 500 acres in that neighborhood, part of his land lying over in Union township, and there he spent his last days, a useful and influential citizen of that community, his death occurring in 1906. To Henry Sellers and wife were born six children, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Rosetta, Louisa and Della, and two brothers, Henry and Grover Sellers. Reared on the farm on which he was born, Charles A. Sellers received his schooling in the neighborhood school, and from the days of his boyhood his attention has been devoted to farming. As a

young man he remained on the home farm, helpful in extending the growing interests of the place, and after his marriage established his home there and has continued to make that his place of residence, in time inheriting the eighty-acre farm which he is now operating there. Mr. Sellers has improved his place in admirable shape and has a well-equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming, he has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, and has done well. In 1898 Charles A. Sellers was united in marriage to Emma Hengstler, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, daughter of Joseph Hengstler, and to that union two children were born, a daughter, Lavina, and a son, Harry Sellers, both of whom are still at home. The mother of these children died on February 10, 1903, and is buried in the Lutheran cemetery, north of Cridersville. The Sellers family is comfortably situated, having a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 9 out of Wapakoneta. In his political views Mr. Sellers holds himself independent of party ties.

L. G. FISCHER, a well-known merchant of Minster and a former member of the town council there, was born at Minster on January 9, 1876, and is a son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Bockrath) Fischer, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. Benjamin Fischer, who is still living at Minster, now retired, was born at Cincinnati, and was but a lad when his parents came up into this part of the state and located at Minster. He early became trained as a carpenter and continued in that vocation until his retirement, his operations being carried on at Minster save for a period of six years spent at St. Louis and two years at Toledo, and is now living quietly retired at Minster. To him and his wife were born nine children, seven of whom are still living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Anna, John, Francis, Henry, George and Rose. With the exception of two years spent in the schools of Toledo, L. G. Fischer received his schooling in the schools of Minster, and in this latter town grew to manhood. For ten years he was employed in a local factory and then he entered into business for himself as a huckster and established a profitable route out of Minster. He carried on along this line for several years and then became engaged in the saloon business at Minster, and was thus engaged for four years, at the end of which time he opened a grocery store at the place now occupied by him in that town, and has ever since been thus engaged in business, one of the best known merchants in town. Not long after opening his grocery, Mr. Fisher added to his stock a general line of queensware, graniteware and the like, and an added line covering varieties of one kind and another, and thus has a quite general stock for the accommodation of his trade. He is a Democrat and has rendered public service as a member of the

town council, a position he occupied for six years. L. G. Fischer has been twice married. His first wife, who was Emma Anthony, died leaving two children, Deloris and Irene. By his second wife, Alma Roettger, he has two sons, Ralph and Albert. Mr. and Mrs. Fischer are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church and he is a member of the St. Boniface Benevolent Society and of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

WILLIAM R. BRIGGS, a well-known teacher in the schools of Kossuth and the owner of a pleasant home and a well-kept farm at the edge of that village, one of the wide-awake and progressive citizens of Salem township, where he has lived for nearly twenty years past, was born on a farm just up over the line in the neighboring county of Allen on April 29, 1870, and is a son of Charles M. and Amanda (Vest) Briggs, whose last days were spent there. The late Charles M. Briggs, an honored veteran of the Civil war, was born in Allen county and was living there when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front with the 4th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which gallant command he served for four years, or until the close of the war, and during this long term of service participated in some of the important engagements of the war, for it will be recalled that the 4th Ohio took a pretty active part in that struggle between the states. Upon the completion of his military service, Charles M. Briggs returned to Allen county, and after his marriage established his home on a farm of sixty acres in that county, and there spent the remainder of his life engaged in farming. To him and his wife were born five children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Florence, and a brother, Harry Briggs. Reared on the home farm in Allen county, William R. Briggs received his early schooling in the Spencerville schools and supplemented the course in the high school there by a course in the normal schools at Ada and at Defiance, and then began to teach school, a vocation he ever since has followed, and in which he has become one of the best known teachers in Auglaize county. Mr. Briggs' first school was the Gower school, in Allen county, and his next school was taught in Duchouquet township, in Auglaize county. He then became employed as head of the Kossuth schools and has ever since been thus engaged, principal of the schools. In 1904 Mr. Briggs bought a tract of forty acres adjoining the village, erected there a comfortable dwelling house, and he and his family are quite pleasantly situated. He gives attention to the direction of affairs on the farm and thus finds ample outlet for his energies during the period of school vacations. At the age of twenty-one years, in September, 1891, William R. Briggs was united in marriage to Charlotte Frech, daughter of Henry and Sophia Frech, of Ft. Wayne, Ind., and to

this union six children have been born, Leo, Leon, Dr. Marion H. Briggs, Leroy, Lena and Dorothea, three of whom, Leo, Leroy and Marion, are married. Leo Briggs, who is a veteran of the World war, married Elizabeth Seibert, and Leroy Briggs, also a veteran of the World war, married Thelma Parent. Dr. Marion H. Briggs married Selma Speckman, of New Bremen, and is now practicing his profession at that place. The Briggs home is on rural mail route No. 5 out of Spencerville. Mr. Briggs is one of the leaders of the Republican party in the northwestern part of the county, is the present township committeeman of that party for Salem township, and for six years served as township assessor. He is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Kossuth, and both he and his wife are connected with the lodge of the Daughters of Rebekah there.

WILLIAM MEIERING, one of Jackson township's well known and progressive young farmers and the proprietor of an excellent farm in section 30 of that township, in the Egypt neighborhood, where he makes his home, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. Mr. Meiering was born on September 6, 1885, and is a son of Frank and Louise (Westgerdes) Meiering, both members of pioneer families of that neighborhood, and the latter of whom is still living, making her home with her son, William, and family. She was born on a neighboring farm and is a daughter of Henry Westgerdes, one of the pioneers of that part of the county. The late Frank Meiering also was born in Jackson township, on the farm now owned by his son, William, and was a son of Joseph and Gertrude (Wissman) Meiering, natives of Germany, who had come up into this part of the state following their marriage at Cincinnati and had settled on this farm land, which Joseph Meiering had entered from the Government, and there spent the remainder of their lives, as is set out elsewhere in this volume, together with other details regarding the Meiering family in this county. It was on that pioneer farm that Frank Meiering grew to manhood, and there after his marriage he established his home and continued actively engaged in farming the remainder of his life, his death occurring on May 12, 1911. After his death his widow continued to make her home on the home place, the operations of which were carried on in her behalf by her son, William, until he presently bought the place, having established his home there after his marriage, and he has since carried on his operations as proprietor. William Meiering has been a farmer all his active life. He grew up on the home farm and received his schooling in the Egypt school. From boyhood he has been active in the labors of the farm, and since he came into possession of the home place has made numerous substantial improvements there, now having a very well-equipped farm plant. In addition to this farm of 120

acres, he also owns a farm of 50 acres in Petterson township, in the neighboring county of Darke, and is doing well in his operations. The place on which he is now living is the tract that was entered from the Government by his grandfather, Joseph Meiering, and which thus has ever been kept in the family name. William Meiering married Rose Bergmann, daughter of Stephen and Anna (Avers) Bergmann, and to this union have been born four children, Ludwina, Romilda, Harry and Alma. The Meierings have a very pleasant home on rural route No. 2 out of Minster. They are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Egypt, and Mr. Meiering is a member of the St. Joseph Society. In his political views he is a Democrat. In addition to his general farming he has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and his operations are carried on in accordance with modern agricultural methods.

WALLACE BRUNER, proprietor of the saw mill at Buckland and also the owner of a small farm in the vicinity of that village, one of the best known men in that neighborhood, is a native of Ohio and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since he was fifteen years of age. Mr. Bruner was born on a farm in Sandusky county, Ohio, April 12, 1863, and is a son of Martin and Sarah (Ludwig) Bruner, who later became residents of the Buckland neighborhood. The late Martin Bruner also was born in Sandusky county and was a son of Martin Bruner, a Pennsylvanian, who had settled on a farm in that county in pioneer days and had there spent the remainder of his life. The junior Martin Bruner grew up on that farm and after his marriage became a farmer on his own account in that county, remaining there until in 1878, when he disposed of his interests in Sandusky county and with his family came to Auglaize county and established his home on a tract of 144 acres which he had bought in the Buckland neighborhood, in Logan township. He also erected a saw mill there and became an active factor in the industrial development of that section. He came to a tragic end by being gored to death by an enraged bull at Buckland on August 6, 1903. To him and his wife were born nine children, all of whom are living save two daughters (Pearl and Sarah), the subject of this sketch (the third in order of birth) having five sisters, Anna, Emma, Effie, Ora and Geneva, and a brother, Martin Bruner. As noted above, Wallace Bruner was fifteen years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1878, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the Buckland neighborhood, a helpful factor in the labors of developing and improving that farm and in the activities attendant on the operation of his father's saw mill. He married at the age of twenty-three, just about the time of the beginning of the great oil and gas "boom" in this part of the state, and then began to work in the oil fields, a vocation he followed for fourteen years, at

the end of which time he bought a tract of thirty-three acres adjacent to the village of Buckland, established his home there and settled down to farming in a small way, at the same time reviving his interest in saw milling, and has since been operating the saw mill at Buckland. It was on August 30, 1886, that Wallace Bruner was united in marriage to Ella Trotter, who was born in Logan township, daughter of Mary and James Trotter, and a member of one of the pioneer families in the Buckland neighborhood, and to this union four children have been born, Charles, Lloyd, Dove and George, the latter of whom is still at home with his parents. Charles Bruner married Helen Weller and has four children, Thomas, Joseph, Virginia and Frederick. Lloyd Bruner married Iva May, and Dove Bruner married Charles J. Neff. Mr. and Mrs. Bruner have a pleasant home at Buckland. They are members of the Christian church and are Republicans.

E. G. CONRADI, former mayor of the flourishing village of New Bremen, for more than twenty-two years editor of the local newspapers in that village, the *Sun* and the *Stern des Westlichen Ohio,* secretary of the New Bremen Telephone Company, and in other ways interested and active in the general civic and industrial life of that community, one of the best known men in this section of Ohio, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life, his first mature service to the community of which he is so definite a part having been that rendered as a young man as a teacher in the schools of his home town. Mr. Conradi was born on a farm in German township on October 12, 1872, and is the eighth in order of birth of the nine children born to Carl F. and Gertrude (Bruetsch) Conradi, natives of Germany, who became residents of the New Bremen neighborhood in the early '50s of the past century, and both of whom now are deceased. Other surviving members of this numerous family are Mrs. Joe Poppe, of St. Marys township; Louis and August Conradi, successful farmers of German township; Dr. E. Conradi, president of the Florida State College for Women at Tallahassee, and Prof. A. F. Conradi, state entomologist for South Carolina and a professor in the State Agricultural College at Clemson, S. C. Reared on the home farm in the vicinity of New Bremen, E. G. Conradi completed the course in the high school in that village and then began teaching school, a teacher in the village schools, and for eleven years followed this profession, in the meanwhile becoming an active and influential factor in the general social and cultural activities of the community and acquiring that wide and intelligent acquaintance with local conditions that presently was to stand him so well in stead as his most valuable bit of "stock in trade," for it is indisputable that the wideawake newspaper man's most indispensable asset is an all-comprehensive acquaintance with the general history

E. G. CONRADI

and traditions of the community he serves. In May, 1900, Mr. Conradi became connected in a proprietary way with the printing and publishing business at New Bremen, and has thus been engaged ever since, as is set out elsewhere in this work in the chapter relating to the newspapers of Auglaize county. When, in 1907, the present Home Printing Company of New Bremen was organized, publishers of the *Sun* and the *Stern des Westlichen Ohio*, Mr. Conradi was elected president of that concern and has so continued, having general editorial direction of both newspapers, an editorial service which now has covered more than twenty-two years, and during which time these newspapers have rendered an incalculable service to the community by keeping the communal interests presented in a foremost way before the world. Mr. Conradi also for years has taken an active interest in the promotion of the general civic and industrial affairs of the community and is financially interested in several of the leading local manufacturing enterprises of his home town. He was one of the active promoters of the development of the local telephone plant, is secretary and a member of the board of directors of the New Bremen Telephone Company, and to the constantly growing interests of this company devotes a large part of his time. He has ever given his intelligent and thoughtful attention to civic affairs, and for almost five years served as mayor of the village, and for one term as a member of the local board of education. On December 25, 1894, while serving as a teacher in the schools of New Bremen, E. G. Conradi was united in marriage to Ida W. Boesel, eldest daughter of the late Hon. Jacob Boesel, of New Bremen, a member of the pioneer Boesel family of that neighborhood, concerning which family further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Mr. and Mrs. Conradi have a very pleasant home at New Bremen and have ever taken an interested part in the general social and cultural activities of the community. They are active members of the Pentecostal church, and in the congregation of this church Mr. Conradi has held offices of trust for many years.

ARTHUR R. WHETSTONE, one of Salem township's well known farmers and landowners, has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since the days of his infancy, he having been under three years of age when his parents settled here in 1874. Mr. Whetstone was born on a farm in Ross county, Ohio, May 6, 1871, and is a son of Simon W. and Amanda (Feaster) Whetstone, both of whom were born in that same county, members of pioneer families there. The late Simon Whetstone, formerly and for years a well known resident of Logan township, grew to manhood in Ross county and after his marriage there took up farming, a vocation he followed the remainder of his life. In 1874 he disposed of his interests in Ross county and moved with his family to

Auglaize county, locating on a farm of eighty acres in Logan township, where he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of six children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Belle, and a brother, Jesse Whetstone. As is noted above, Arthur R. Whetstone was but a small child when he came with his parents to this county in 1874 from Ross county and he grew to manhood on the farm in Logan township, receiving his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. He was a well grown boy when the oil and gas "boom" broke out in this section of the state and for some time thereafter he was employed in the oil fields, but after his marriage he rented a farm and entered upon the vocation he ever since has followed. Not long afterward he bought a "forty" in Logan township and on that place made his home for five years, at the end of which time he sold that farm and bought a farm of 142 acres just south of Buckland. Five years later he disposed of that place and then bought the farm of sixty-five acres on which he is now living in Salem township and has since resided on this latter place, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of this farm, Mr. Whetstone has made extensive improvements on the place and now has a well equipped farm plant and is doing well in his operations. It was in December, 1897, that Arthur R. Whetstone was united in marriage to Dora Kraft, who was born in the neighboring county of Allen, and to this union two children have been born, a son, Clarence J., and a daughter, Addie E., the latter of whom married Miles B. Reed and has one child, a son, Robert. Clarence J. Whetstone married Florence Wagoner and also has one child, a daughter, Thelma. The Whetstones have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys. Mr. and Mrs. Whetstone are members of the Christian church at Buckland and are Republicans.

EDWARD L. KATTERHEINRICH, a member of the county board of education and a well-known and substantial farmer and landowner of Washington township, proprietor of a well-improved farm in the Moulton neighborhood, on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, was born in the pleasant village of New Knoxville on August 2, 1882, and is a son of Henry and Anna (Schroer) Katterheinrich, both of whom were born in Washington township, both the Katterheinrichs and the Schroers having been among the early settlers of the New Knoxville community, as is set out elsewhere. Henry Katterheinrich, who is now living on his well-kept farm in Washington township, spent the early years of his manhood as a carpenter and then took up farming, a vocation he ever since has followed, now the owner of a fine farm of 120 acres in Washington township. To him and his wife were born eleven children, nine of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Ida, Edna and

Mahilda, and five brothers, Charles, Henry, Gus, Edwin and Rhinehardt Katterheinrich. Born at New Knoxville, where his father then was engaged in building operations, Edward L. Katterheinrich was five years of age when his parents moved from the village to the farm, and he grew to manhood on the farm, receiving his schooling in what now is known as the Chapel school. From the days of his boyhood he was well trained in the ways of the farm, and after his marriage at the age of twenty-one, he began farming on his own account, renting the place on which he now lives, and which he bought in 1907, and has ever since made his home there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. In 1920 Mr. Katterheinrich's farm plant was caught in the path of what has come to be known as the Moulton cyclone and all the buildings on the place were destroyed with the exception of the dwelling house, which was considerably damaged. This necessitated a reconstruction and remodeling process, which has given Mr. Katterheinrich a practically new and up-to-date farm plant and a house modern in its appointments, so that he now has one of the best improved places in the neighborhood. Mr. Katterheinrich has 119 acres, and in addition to his general farming gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding out about 100 hogs and as many as twenty cattle a year, and is doing well in his operations. He is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, now serving as a member of the county board of education. It was on October 15, 1903, that Edward L. Katterheinrich was united in marriage to Anna Thielk, who also was born in Washington township, daughter of John and Julia (Stroh) Thielk, and to this union three children have been born, Emanuel J., Emma and Alice, the first named of whom is now a student in Capital University, at Columbus. Mr. and Mrs. Katterheinrich are members of Zion's Lutheran church at St. Marys.

EDWARD C. HOLL, a well known resident of New Knoxville and widely known throughout this part of the state as a ditching contractor, who is also the secretary-treasurer of the New Knoxville Electric Company and clerk of the board of education of that village, was born at New Knoxville on February 21, 1879, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Wierwille) Holl, concerning whom further reference, together with additional details regarding the Holl family in this county, is made elsewhere in this volume in connection with the biographical sketch relating to the Hon. George W. Holl, elder brother of the subject of this sketch and former state senator from this district. Edward C. Holl was about twelve years of age when his father, George Holl, the village shoemaker and a native of Germany, died, and he early was thrown pretty largely on his own resources to assist in his own livelihood and in helping in the care of his widowed mother and his younger sisters. He kept in school,

however, and after completing the common school course "worked his way" through a course in pharmacy in the Ohio Northern University at Ada. Thus equipped as a practical druggist, Mr. Holl, in 1899, became employed as a clerk in the drug store of Doctor Hunter at Wapakoneta and was thus engaged for about five years, at the end of which time he returned to New Knoxville and there became actively engaged in the real estate business. Not long afterward he became interested in the possibilities connected with practical ditching and dredging operations in this section and set up as a ditching contractor, starting out with one ditching machine, and has ever since been engaged in that line, one of the best known contractors in that line in this part of the state. As his business grew Mr. Holl continued to add to his power equipment until now he has four ditching machines and is equipped for any sort of work that may be called for in his line. He also has taken an active part in various forms of promotion in his home town and is the vice president and a member of the board of directors of the New Knoxville Electric Company. He is a Democrat and has for a number of years been the clerk of the local board of education at New Knoxville. Edward C. Holl married Elizabeth K. Fledderjohann, daughter of August and Louise (Schroer) Fledderjohann, both members of pioneer families in this county, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at New Knoxville. They have two adopted children, Ruth and Donald Schellenberg, and are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville.

HERMAN HENRY SCHROER, who died in 1914 at his farm home about two miles north of New Knoxville, where his widow is still living, was a substantial farmer of that neighborhood and a good citizen, who at his death left a good memory. Mr. Schroer was born on that farm on July 20, 1860, and was a son of John Henry and Sophia Schroer, both members of pioneer families of the New Knoxville neighborhood, and concerning whom further and fitting reference is made elsewhere in this volume. Reared on the home farm, he received his schooling in the neighborhood school (district No. 4) and grew up attentive to the affairs of the farm, remaining at home until he had attained his majority, when he took a trip West and was gone for three or four years, prospecting around. Upon his return home he began working in a saw mill along the canal, and after his marriage a year later established a saw mill of his own in Washington township and operated the same for five or six years, at the end of which time he sold the mill and bought the home "eighty" of the old Schroer home place north of New Knoxville and established his home there. On that place Mr. Schroer spent the remainder of his life, actively and successfully engaged in farming, and his widow is still living there, the family being very comfortably situ-

ated. Mr. Schroer also owned a tract of fifteen acres on the south and had created an excellent farm plant. His death occurred there on February 15, 1914. In his political views he was a Democrat, and at the time of his death was a member of the local school board. He was a member of the Reformed church at New Knoxville, as is his widow, and had ever taken an interested part in the affairs of that congregation. Herman Henry Schroer married Amelia Luft, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, and to this union were born thirteen children, eleven of whom are living, Frank, Leroy, Ada, Clarence, Edward, Gustave, Elizabeth, Harry, Pauline, Esther and Carl, the three elder of whom are married. The Rev. Frank Schroer, the eldest of these children, now pastor of the Broadview Lutheran church of Chicago, married Myrtle Hanzel and has one child, a daughter, Carol Marie. Leroy Schroer married Frances Haberkamp and has one child, a daughter, Dorothy, and Ada Schroer married Lafe Beikman and has one child, a son, Howard W. The Schroer home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys. Mrs. Schroer was born at New Knoxville and is a daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (Wierwille) Luft, both of whom also were born in this county, the former at New Bremen and the latter in Washington township. The late Christian Luft, a veteran of the Civil war, grew to manhood at New Bremen, learning there the trade of harness maker. When the Civil war broke out he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and served as a soldier for about two years. After his marriage he established his home at New Knoxville, where he set up a shop as a harness maker and was thus engaged at that place until his death. He and his wife had three children, Mrs. Schroer having two sisters, Malinda and Anna.

JACOB SCHOLL, a well-known bachelor farmer and substantial landowner of Logan township, proprietor of a well-improved farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of Spencerville, is a European by birth, but has been a resident of this country since he was twelve years of age, and of Auglaize county since he was eighteen, a period of more than thirty-five years. Mr. Scholl was born in the city of Wittenberg, the ancient capital of the electorate of Upper Saxony, on the right bank of the Elbe, fifty-five miles southwest of Berlin, and historically memorable as "the cradle of the Reformation," October 10, 1867, and is a son of Jacob and Catherine (Meinhardt) Scholl, also natives of Saxony, who in 1880 came to America with their family and, proceeding on out into Ohio, located at Marion. For six years after his arrival in this state the senior Jacob Scholl made his home at Marion, and then, in 1886, he moved over here into Auglaize county and bought a tract of fifty-nine acres of land in Logan township and on that place established his home and became engaged

as a farmer, a vocation in which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in September, 1902, he in the meantime having increased his land holdings there until he was the owner of a good farm of 119 acres. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, all of whom are living save two (Charles and Frederick), the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Catherine, Minnie, Regia and Caroline, and one brother, William Scholl. As noted above, the junior Jacob Scholl was twelve years of age when he came to this country with his parents, in 1880, and he finished his schooling during the time of the family's residence at Marion. He was eighteen years of age when the family located on the farm in Logan township, this county, and he at once entered upon the considerable task of helping to improve and develop that farm, an able assistant to his father in these labors. He also for some time was engaged in farm labor on other farms, and thus early became a practical farmer, with a view eventually to becoming a farmer on his own account. Some time after the death of his father he bought from the other heirs their respective interests in the home place and has since been farming that place as proprietor, the owner of an excellent farm of 119 acres, which he has improved in up-to-date fashion. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Scholl has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, and is doing well in his operations. In his political views Mr. Scholl is an "independent." He is an active member of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry at Kossuth, and of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at that place, and is affiliated with the encampment of the Odd Fellows at Spencerville.

WALTER GLASS, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Salem township, was born in that township on May 19, 1896, and is a son of Charles and Catherine (Folker) Glass, both of whom also were born in Auglaize county, members of pioneer families here, and who are now living retired at St. Marys. Charles Glass was born on a pioneer farm in Noble township and is a son of August Glass, a native of Germany, who had established his home on an eighty-acre farm in that township in pioncer days and had become a useful and influential citizen of that part of the county. Reared on a farm, Charles Glass engaged in farming on his own account after his marriage, remaining for some time thereafter on the home farm in Noble township, and then bought an "eighty" in Salem township, the place on which his son, Walter, is now living, and there established his home. He remained there until after the marriage of his son, Walter, in 1918, when he turned the management of the place over to the latter and retired from the farm, moving to St. Marys, where he and his wife are now living, quite comfortably and pleasantly situated. To Charles Glass and wife

were born nine children, the subject of this sketch—the seventh in order of birth—having a sister, Elizabeth, and seven brothers, Henry, Grover, Carl, Jesse, William, Harvey and Raymond Glass. Reared on the home farm in Salem township, Walter Glass received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and from the days of his boyhood was a practical aid to his father in the labors of cultivating and developing the farm. He married when twenty-one years of age and then became engaged in farming on his own account, renting the farm from his father, who retired at that time, and has since been living on the home place. Mr. Glass has an excellent farm plant and is carrying on his operations in accordance with modern methods and is doing well. It was on April 4, 1918, that Walter Glass was united in marriage to Hilda Dohse, and to this union two sons have been born, John and Alvin C. Mr. and Mrs. Glass have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Mendon. They are members of the Lutheran church and are Democrats.

J. H. LUTTERBECK, a member of one of the pioneer families of Washington township and the proprietor of a well improved farm in that township, about two miles northeast of New Knoxville, was born in that township and has lived there all his life, a period of nearly seventy years, and has thus seen that region develop from its woodland state. Mr. Lutterbeck was born on a woodland farm just southwest of New Knoxville, in the very southwest corner of Washington township, on April 8, 1855, and is a son of William and Elizabeth Lutterbeck, natives of Germany, who had come here with their respective parents in the days of their youth and were here married. William Lutterbeck was a well-grown boy when he came here. That was during the time of the construction of the canal up through this part of the state, and he secured employment with the construction gang and thus helped to finish the canal. After his marriage he bought a woodland tract of fifty-four acres just southwest of the village of New Knoxville and proceeded to clear and improve the same, and later bought an adjoining "forty" there. On that place he made his home until 1872, when he bought a tract of a fraction more than 162 acres along the creek in the northwest quarter of section 22 of Washington township, a part of which place is now owned by the subject of this sketch, and on this latter place spent the remainder of his life, a progressive and successful farmer. He and his wife had three children who grew to maturity, the subject of this sketch and his brothers, Herman (deceased) and Louis Lutterbeck, of Cleveland. J. H. Lutterbeck grew up on the home farm, receiving his schooling in the schools of New Knoxville, and until his marriage continued farming in association with his father. After his marriage he rented a part of the home farm and began farming on his own account. Upon the death of his father not long

afterward, he and his brothers divided the farm and he came into possession of the home acres, where he ever since has lived, and where he and his family are quite comfortably situated. Mr. Lutterbeck has a well-improved farm of ninety-one acres, and with the assistance of his sons is carrying on his operations there in successful fashion. He is a Republican and he and his family are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville. J. H. Lutterbeck married Anna Katterheinrich, a member of the well-known pioneer family of that name in Washington township, and to this union have been born eight children, Lena, Emma, Dora, William, Bertha, Jacob, Ferd and Alvina, all of whom are married save Dora and the two last named. Lena Lutterbeck married Louis Hulsmeyer and has three children, Orlando, Marie and Alice. Emma Lutterbeck married Ernest Hoge and has three children, Norman, Kermit and Elda. William Lutterbeck married Lena Opperman and has three children, Vernon, Orin and Grace. Bertha Lutterbeck married Ernest Harlament, and Jacob Lutterbeck married Ella Luederke and has one child, a son, Myron. The Lutterbeck home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Marys. Mrs. Anna Lutterbeck was born in Washington township and is a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Niemeyer) Katterheinrich, who came here from Cincinnati some time following their immigration from Germany, where they were married, and who became well-to-do farming people in Washington township. Of their ten children, four are still living, Mrs. Lutterbeck having a sister, Lena, and two brothers, Henry and Herman Katterheinrich.

BERNARD SENGER, one of Jackson township's progressive and up-to-date farmers, who is now farming his father's place in section 25, about a mile northeast of Minster, was born on that place, as was his father, and is now carrying on operations there as a representative of the third generation of Sengers who have occupied and operated that farm. Mr. Senger was born on March 14, 1883, and is a son of Joseph and Bernedine (Bolles) Senger, both members of pioneer families in that part of the county, and the latter of whom is now deceased. Joseph Senger, former trustee of Jackson township, now living retired from the active operations of the farm, was born on that place and is a son of Frank Senger and wife, who were pioneers of that neighborhood there north and east of Minster, where their last days were spent. On that farm Joseph Senger grew to manhood and in turn came into possession of the place, a fine farm of 120 acres, where he established his home after his marriage and there continued farming until his retirement in 1912. He has ever taken an interested and helpful part in local civic affairs and has served the public as a trustee of Jackson township and also as township assessor. He is a member of St. Augus-

tine's Catholic church, as was his wife, and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, those besides the subject of this sketch (the second in order of birth) being Mary, Herman (deceased), Henry, Anna and Frank. Reared on the home farm, Bernard Senger received his schooling at Minster, and from the days of his boyhood has given his attention to the operation of the farm. As the elder son of the family, he was ever an aid to his father in the labors of developing and improving the farm, and upon his father's retirement in 1912 he assumed management of the place and has since been carrying on operations there. These operations are carried on in accordance with modern methods of agriculture and Mr. Senger has surrounded himself with an excellent farm plant. In addition to his general farming operations, he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. In his political views Bernard Senger holds himself independent of party ties. He is a member of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster and is also affiliated with the local council of the Knights of Columbus at that place. The Senger home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Minster.

GEORGE CLAUSING, a former township trustee, who died in Washington township almost twenty years ago and whose widow is still living there, the operations of the farm being carried on by her son, George, was in his day one of the substantial landowners in that part of Auglaize county and at his passing left a good memory, for he had done well his part in developing the general interests of the community in which he lived. Mr. Clausing was of European birth, born in the kingdom of Hanover in 1846, and was a son of Clement Adolph Clausing, a schoolmaster. He grew up skilled in the trade of carpentry and cabinet making and as a young man came to the United States, arriving here in the latter 60's. For a time after coming to this country he was located at Cincinnati and then he came up into this part of the state and became engaged at his trade in New Knoxville, where he remained until after his marriage when he bought a tract of fifty acres along the old plank road in northeast quarter of section 6 of Washington township, about three miles east of St. Marys, and there established his home and entered upon the career of farming which was to turn out so successfully for him. On that place, upon taking possession, he put up a log cabin and started in to clear and improve his tract. As his affairs prospered he built new buildings and bought more land, becoming the owner of eighty-five acres, and on that place spent his last days, his death occurring on December 25, 1904. Mr. Clausing was a Republican and had rendered public service as a township trustee and as a school director. He was a member of the Reformed church of New Knoxville, as is his widow, and took a proper

part in church affairs. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Clausing has continued to make her home on the farm, where she has lived since the place was opened for cultivation. She was born in Washington township, Elizabeth Schroer, daughter of Herman and Sophia (Wierwille) Schroer, members of pioneer families in that township and concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume, and she has lived here all her life. To George and Elizabeth (Schroer) Clausing ten children were born, eight of whom grew to maturity, Herman, William, Henry, George, Anna, Sarah, Moritz and Mary, all of whom married save the latter. Herman Clausing married Matilda Hove and has six children, Florence, Magdalena, Walter, Edward, Lenora and Noah. William Clausing married Caroline Henschen and has five children, Ferd, Olga, Leonard, Albert and Zella. Henry Clausing married Talitha Hansen and has one child, a daughter, Agnes. George Clausing married Sophia Vohs and is now carrying on the operations of the home farm in his mother's behalf, continuing to make his home on the place, where he has an excellent farm plant and is doing well. Anna Clausing married Benjamin Katterheinrich and has one child, Florence. Sarah Clausing married William Stolte and has three children, Robert, Dorothy and Forest, and Moritz Clausing married Bertha Korspeter. The Clausing home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys. Mrs. Clausing, as will be noted above, has sixteen grandchildren.

WILLIAM E. DEERHAKE, one of the well-known farmers of Auglaize county, now living retired at his well-kept place in the northwest corner of Washington township, on the St. Marys-Wapakoneta road, about two miles east of St. Marys, is a European by birth, but has been a resident of this country and of Auglaize county ever since he was twenty-one years of age, a period of more than fifty years. Mr. Deerhake was born in the Prussian province of Westphalia, in Germany, April 9, 1849, and is a son of Adolph and Katherine (Luebke) Deerhake, also natives of that country, who in 1871 came to this country with their family and settled in the New Knoxville neighborhood in Washington township, this county, where their remaining days were spent. Adolph Deerhake and wife were the parents of six children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Sophia and Fredericka, and a brother, Fred Deerhake. Reared in his native country, William E. Deerhake was twenty-one years of age when he came to America, arriving here on January 1, 1871. He worked as a farm hand in the New Knoxville neighborhood until his marriage, when he bought a tract of ninety-five acres along the old plank road, in the northwest quarter of section 6 of Washington township, the place on which he is now living, established his home there and has

ever since made that his place of residence. But little of this tract was cleared when he took possession, and the task of clearing and improving thus fell upon him, but he got the job done and in good time had an excellent farm there. As his affairs prospered he bought an adjoining tract, which gave him 175 acres, and this farm he operated successfully, but in late years has reduced his holdings until now he holds but his original tract and is living practically retired from the active operations he so long carried on. Mr. Deerhake has given proper attention to local civic affairs and has served the public in the capacity of school director in his district. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's church at St. Marys, and he has served the congregation of that church for several terms as an elder. William E. Deerhake has been twice married, and by his first wife, Christina Haberkamp, a daughter of Adolph Haberkamp, had five children, Henry, Helena, Herman (deceased), Benjamin and William. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Deerhake married Mrs. Caroline (Mueller) Schmidt. Henry Deerhake, the eldest son, and concerning whom further mention is made in this volume, married Anna Luft and has nine children, Leroy, Lydia, Raymond, Homer, Mary, Clara, Edna, Vernon and Mildred. Benjamin Deerhake married Magdalena Hove and has two children, Bernice and Ruth, and William Deerhake married Mabel Hipp and has two children, Betty and William (III). The old Deerhake home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Marys, along the paved highway, the trolley line also passing along that way.

WILLIAM BENSMANN, one on the best known of the older residents of the Minster neighborhood, for many years one of the leading farmers of that part of the county and the owner of a well-improved farm there just northeast of Minster, where he is now living retired, was born in that township and has lived there all his life, a period of more than seventy years, during which he has seen this region develop from its pioneer state to one of the best agricultural districts in Ohio. Mr. Bensmann was born on August 28, 1852, and is a son of William and Catherine (Denzig) Bensmann, both of whom were born in Germany, but were married in this country and became useful pioneers of the Minster neighborhood. The senior William Bensmann was a young man when he came to this country and located at Minster, where for some time he was engaged working on the construction of the canal. He then married and bought a "forty" in the woods just northeast of Minster, built a log cabin on the place and settled down to clear his place and make a farm out of it. When he cleared that tract he bought an adjoining "forty" and as he prospered in his operations continued

to add to his holdings until he became the owner of 200 acres of excellent land there and was accounted one of the substantial citizens of the community. On that place he and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of six children, the subject of this sketch having five brothers, Henry, Herman, Anthony, Charles and John Bensmann, so that the Bensmann connection hereabout in the present generation is a no inconsiderable one. William Bensmann, Jr., was reared on that pioneer farm northeast of Minster and his schooling was received in the Minster schools. After his marriage he rented from his father that part of the farm on which he is now living, and afterward bought the tract of ninety-seven acres. When he came into possession of that place he entered upon a campaign of improvement which soon gave him one of the best improved farms in the neighborhood, and as his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of 202 acres. Mr. Bensmann continued actively engaged in farming until his retirement, when he sold his land and is now giving his attention to other forms of investment, though continuing to make his home on the old home place, where all his life has been spent and where he is very comfortably situated. His home is on rural mail route No. 1 out of Minster. In his political views Mr. Bensmann is a Democrat with independent leanings. He is a member of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster and is a member of the St. Augustine Society of that parish. William Bensmann married Johanna Wuebker, daughter of Fred and Mary (Ronabaum) Wuebker, pioneers of that same neighborhood, and concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union have been born six children, Bernardine, Fred, Henry, Cecelia, Louis and Robert, all of whom are married and who in the aggregate have given to their parents no fewer than twenty-one grandchildren, in whom they take much pride and delight. Bernardine Bensmann married Frank Thieman and has six children, Della, Clara, Marie, Raymond, Margaret and Anneta. Fred Bensmann married Bernardine Schroeder and has six children, Clara, Leo, Hilda, Norbert, Louetta and Fred. Henry Bensmann married Bernardine Busse and has one child, a son, Wilbur. Cecelia Bensmann married Anton Beckman and has four children, Lucile, Wilbur, Leroy and Virginia. Louis Bensmann married Carrie Lampbert and has two children, Dorothy and Richard, and Robert Bensmann married Josephine Whynk and has one child, a daughter, Alfreda. Robert Bensmann, who has that part of the home acres surrounding the old home place and who is living there, his parents making their home with him and his family, is one of the progressive farmers of that part of this county and for some time was the president of the Jackson township farm bureau.

JOSEPH MEIERING, proprietor of the old convent farm in Egypt, where he makes his home, in Jackson township, besides a good farm in German township, where he formerly lived, an active member of the Jackson township farm bureau and long recognized as one of the progressive and up-to-date farmers of that part of the county, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Meiering was born on a farm in Egypt neighborhood in Jackson township on March 7, 1880, and is a son of Frank and Louise (Westgerdes) Meiering, both of whom were born in that same township, the latter a daughter of Henry Westgerdes, who lived on the county line in section 30. The late Frank Meiering was born on a farm in that same section and was a son of Joseph and Gertrude (Wissman) Meiering, both natives of Germany, but who were married in Cincinnati, in which city their respective parents had located upon coming to this country. Not long after his marriage Joseph Meiering came with his wife up into this part of the state and entered from the Government a small tract of land in section 30 of what then was German township, but which, when the separation came, became a part of Jackson township, and on that place made a clearing, built a log cabin and established his home, he and his wife spending the remainder of their lives there, useful and influential pioneers of that neighborhood. Joseph Meiering also was for some time employed in the labors attending the construction of the canal and was widely known among the settlers of that part of the county. His son, Frank Meiering, grew up on the farm and thus became thoroughly familiar with the details of pioneer farming. When the first railroad came through this county—the old Dayton & Michigan, later the C. H. & D., now the B. & O.—he became engaged in construction work on that road and later established himself as a farmer, becoming the owner of an excellent farm in the Egypt neighborhood besides land in German township, his home farm in Jackson township comprising ninety acres, and there he remained engaged in farming until his death in 1911. He and his wife were the parents of six children, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Bernarding, and a brother, William Meiering. Reared on the home farm, Joseph Meiering received his schooling in the Egypt school and from the days of his boyhood has given his attention to farming. When he was married his father gave him a farm of 140 acres in German township, which he still owns, and there he made his home until in 1916 the old convent farm at Egypt was put on the market, when he bought this latter tract of eighty acres from the Sisters of the Precious Blood and has since made his home there, farming this place as well as his German township farm, 220 acres in all. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Meiering gives considerable attention to the raising of live

stock, feeding out about 200 head of hogs a year, and is doing well. He is an interested member of the Jackson township farm bureau and his operations are carried on in accordance with modern methods of agriculture. Joseph Meiering married Anna Kramer, daughter of Frank Kramer, and to this union six children have been born, Alma, Charlotte, Louetta, Arthur, Marquis and Rupert. Mr. and Mrs. Meiering are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Egypt and politically are Democrats. They have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster.

JOHN A. BENSMANN, who resides on the old Bensmann farm northeast of Minster, one of the best known farmers of that neighborhood, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life, a period of more than sixty years. Mr. Bensmann was born on March 11, 1860, and is the last born of the six sons of William and Catherine (Danzig) Bensmann, who were among the useful and influential pioneers of that section of the county. Both William Bensmann and his wife were born in Germany, but were married in this country and here spent their last days. William Bensmann located at Minster in pioneer days and for some time worked on the construction of the canal, which then was in progress, but presently bought a tract of land northeast of Minster, in Jackson township, where he established his home, and where he and his wife reared their family and spent the remainder of their days, as is set out elsewhere in this work, together with much other detail relating to these pioneers and to the Bensmann family in this county. Reared on that farm, John A. Bensmann received his schooling in the Minster schools, and from the days of his boyhood has given his attention to the operations of the home farm, having established his home there after his marriage. Upon the death of his father he took over the home place of 123 acres and has since been farming there. Since coming into possession of this place Mr. Bensmann has made numerous improvements of an up-to-date character on the farm, including the erection of a modern brick dwelling house, and has a well-equipped farm plant. He bought an adjoining tract of 100 acres and thus for some time carried on operations on a farm of 223 acres, but later sold the 100-acre tract and now owns but the home farm of 123 acres, which is well and profitably cultivated. In addition to his general farming operations, Mr. Bensmann has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. John A. Bensmann married Catherine Michael, daughter of Mrs. Catherine Michael, and to this union nine children were born, William, Joseph, Frank, Edwin, Albert, August, Lawrence, Rose and Catherine, all of whom are living, and six of whom are married. The mother of these children died on February 4, 1917. William Bensmann married Elizabeth Sager and has had five children, Clarence, Elsie, Rosella,

Alvina and Ralph (deceased). Joseph Bensmann married Emma Hoying and has four children, Mary, Herbert, Elizabeth and Lorena. Frank Bensmann married Apalonia Secrist and has four children, Jerome, Arthur, Mary Ann and Verner. Albert Bensmann married Elenora Stueve and has one child, a daughter, Bernadetta. Rose Bensmann married Joseph Bornhorst, and Catherine Bensmann married Henry Stueve and has two children, Norbert and Norman. The Bensmanns have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Minster. They are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster, and Mr. Bensmann is a member of the St. Augustine Society. In his political views he is a Democrat.

CHARLES KUCK, one of Washington township's well-known farmers, a former trustee of that township and the proprietor of a well-improved place on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, was born at New Knoxville, in this same township, June 29, 1864, and is a son of Ernest and Elizabeth (Fenneman) Kuck, the latter of whom was born in Germany and was but a child when she came to this country with her parents, the family settling in the New Knoxville neighborhood, as is set out elsewhere in this volume, the Fennemans having been among the influential pioneers of that neighborhood. Ernest Kuck was a son of William Kuck, one of the pioneers of that same neighborhood, and was born on the old Kuck place, just southwest of the village. He early took up the trade of carpenter, and after his marriage established his home at New Knoxville, where he continued working as a carpenter and builder, and where his last days were spent, his death occurring on April 7, 1875, and his widow long survived him. They were the parents of five children, of whom but two now survive, the subject of this sketch and his brother, Edward Kuck. Charles Kuck was but ten years of age when his father died, and he thus early began to assume mature responsibilities in the matter of a livelihood. He received his schooling in the New Knoxville schools, and when little more than a lad began to work as a carpenter, a vocation he followed until his marriage, when he rented a farm down over the line in Shelby county and started in as a farmer. For eleven years Mr. Kuck and his wife lived in Shelby county, and then they came back into Auglaize county and located on the farm in Washington township where they are now living and where they are very comfortably situated. Mr. Kuck has a well cultivated farm of 115 acres, and since taking possession of the same has made numerous substantial improvements, now having a well-equipped farm plant, as well as a nice dwelling house. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. Mr. Kuck is a Republican, and for nine years served the people of Washington township as a township trustee. He also has rendered

service as director of schools in his district. He and his wife are members of the First Reformed church at New Knoxville, and he has served the congregation of that church as a deacon. Mrs. Kuck before her marriage was Mary Wierwille. She was born in Shelby county and is a daughter of Adolph and Elizabeth (Kattman) Wierwille, natives of Germany, who had come to this section of Ohio with their respective parents in the days of their youth and were here married, as is set out elsewhere in this volume, together with additional details regarding the pioneer Wierwille and Kattman families here. Mrs. Kuck has a sister, Sophia, and three brothers, Henry W., William and Ernest Wierwille. Charles and Mary (Wierwille) Kuck have two children, Anna and William C. Kuck, the latter of whom married Anna Schmeat and has four children, Frederick, Alice, Orville and Lela. Anna Kuck married Gustav Elshoff and has three children, Marion, Calvin and Orlando.

ERNST HOELSCHER, a former trustee of Washington township and one of the best known and most substantial farmers and landowners of that township, proprietor of a fine farm east of New Knoxville, where he is now living practically retired from the active labors of the farm, was born on that place and has lived there all his life, a period of nearly seventy-five years, and has thus been a witness to the development of this region from its pioneer state. Mr. Hoelscher was born on September 12, 1849, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Niemeyer) Hoelscher, natives of Germany, who were married in that country and shortly after their marriage came to America and proceeded on out into Ohio and settled here. When they came here the work of canal construction was then under way, and after his arrival here Henry Hoelscher became engaged as a workman on that project, working with the canal crew until the big job was finished. When he arrived here he had but $1 left of the money he had provided for the journey from Germany, and the work on the canal came to him as a godsend, the money thus earned providing a fund for the purchase of a small tract of land east of New Knoxville, in Washington township, where he established his home and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, industrious and helpful members of that community. The first bit of land Henry Hoelscher bought there was a tract of forty acres. As he got this cleared and developed he added to his holdings and gradually increased the same until he became the owner of a fine farm of 225 acres and was accounted one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch and his brother, William Hoelscher. Reared on the pioneer farm on which he was born, Ernst Hoelscher grew up familiar with

ERNST HOELSCHER AND WIFE

all the details connected with the strenuous job of clearing a woodland farm and getting it ready for cultivation. He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood has applied himself to the affairs of the farm. He continued farming with his father until the latter's death, and then took over 120 acres of the home place and has continued to make his home there. Since taking possession of that place he has made extensive improvements and has long had one of the best equipped farm plants in that neighborhood. He also bought a tract of eighty acres adjoining his original tract on the north, and thus has a farm of 200 acres, which is profitably cultivated and kept up in spick and span order. He also owns a quarter of a section of land in Kansas. Mr. Hoelscher is a Republican, for years looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in his home township, and has rendered public service in various capacities, for six years a trustee of the township, for six years supervisor of roads in his district, and for several years a member of the local board of education. He and his family are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville, of the congregation of which he has been an elder for the past twenty years, and he also has served as a deacon of that congregation. Ernst Hoelscher married Adaline Wellman, daughter of Henry Wellman, and a member of the well-known pioneer family of that name in Washington township, and to this union eight children were born, all of whom are living save two (Emma and Lena), the others being Matilda, Louis, William, George, Caroline and Emil, all of whom are married. The mother of these children died on March 25, 1912. Matilda Hoelscher married George Cook and has five children, Alvin, Elmer, Raymond, Howard and Wilfred. Alvin Cook married Anna Caroline Zeigler and has three children. Elmer Cook married Lovenia Marie Cammerer and has a son, Wallace. Raymond Cook married Zeta Enid Boxley and has a son, Eugene, and Howard Cook married Genevia Britten. Louis Hoelscher married Sophia Lutterbeck and has eight children, Adaline, Elizabeth, Mary, Enoch, Helena, Julius, Max and Waldo. Adaline Hoelscher married Jacob Meckstroth and has two daughters, Gretchen and Rachel. William Hoelscher married Matilda Bierbaum and has four children, Irene, Lenora, Myron and Elody. George Hoelscher married Anna Lammers and has five children, Martha, Noah, Esther, Ruby and Elmer. Caroline Hoelscher married George Bierbaum and has four children, Olga, Robert, Ruth and Reuben, and Emil Hoelscher married Magdalena Meckstroth and has one child, a daughter, Lucile, it thus being noted that Mr. Hoelscher has twenty-seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren, in all of whom he takes much pride and delight. The Hoelscher home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Marys.

DORSEY PLACE, former assessor of Logan township and one of the well-known and substantial farmers of that township, proprietor of a well-improved farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of Hume, was born on that farm and has lived there the greater part of his life. Mr. Place was born on September 14, 1857, and is a son of Leonard and Cythena (Love) Place, who were well known among the pioneers of that part of the county. Leonard Place was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, and was but a lad when he came to Ohio with his parents, Isaac and Clarinda Place, in 1836, the family settling in Delaware county, where he grew to manhood. In 1851 he entered from the Government an "eighty" on the west bank of the Auglaize river, in the northwest quarter of section 27 of Logan township, this county, and for a time made his home there, but presently returned to Delaware county in this state, where he remained two years, at the end of which time he moved to Allen county, and not long afterward resumed his residence on his place in Logan township, this county, established his home there and started in to clear the place and make a farm out of it. To that place he added by purchase until he was the owner of a farm of 140 acres, where he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, all of whom are still living save two (Smith and Mary), the subject of this sketch having a sister, Martha Ellen, and three brothers, Loveman, Leonard and John Place. Reared on the farm on which he was born and where he is now living, Dorsey Place received his schooling in the little old school house of district No. 2, adjacent to the Place farm, and from the days of his boyhood gave his attention to the affairs of the farm, remaining with his father until after his marriage, when he began farming on his own account on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Kossuth. There he remained four years, at the end of which time he returned to the home place, bought 100 acres of it, the place he now owns, and has since resided there. Mr. Place has ever carried on his farming operations in accordance with up-to-date methods and has done well. His farm is well improved and he has a well-equipped farm plant. He and his wife are members of the Christian Union church, and he is a member of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry. He is a Democrat, has long given his active attention to local political affairs, and has served for two terms as assessor of Logan township. It was on August 25, 1885, that Dorsey Place was united in marriage to Mary Bice, who was born in the neighboring county of Allen, daughter of William and Tabitha Bice, and to this union four children have been born, Blanche, Virgil A., Fernando L. and Stanley B., all of whom are married. Blanche Place married Oliver Miller, of Allen county, Ohio, and has one child, a son, Dorsey. Virgil A. Place, who is now living in Lake county, Indiana, married Helen

Scott, of Columbus, Ohio, and has four children, Mary A., Andrew, Robert and Jeannette. Fernando L. Place married Pearl Oberdeen, of Kossuth, this county, and is now living in the village of Buckland. Stanley B. Place, who is living in Logan township, married Lillian Graessle, also a member of one of the old families of Logan township, and has four children, Mary C., Ned, Betty L. and Susan.

FRED E. SETTLAGE, a former trustee of Washington township and a well-known octogenarian farmer and landowner of that township, proprietor of a well-improved farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, where he is now living retired from the active labors of the farm, was born on a pioneer farm in the neighboring township of German, in the days when that township was still comprised within the confines of Mercer county, before Auglaize county was organized, and has lived hereabout all his life, he thus having been a witness to and a participant in the development of this county from the days of its beginning. Mr. Settlage was born on November 9, 1842, and is a son of Henry Arnold and Mary Elizabeth (Kuck) Settlage, natives of Germany, who were married in Cincinnati and who later came up into this part of Ohio and became pioneers of the region afterward erected into Auglaize county. Henry Arnold Settlage was a young man when he came to this country and located at Cincinnati, where he became employed at his trade as a blacksmith. About three years later he married there and then came up into this section of the state and settled on a farm west of New Bremen, where he became the owner of about 100 acres of land, and there he remained for about fifteen years, at the end of which time he sold that place and bought a tract of 156 acres in Washington township with the expectation of moving onto this latter place, but before his plans could be matured his death occurred, October 1, 1855. He and his wife were the parents of five children, of whom three grew to maturity, the subject of this sketch and his brothers, William and Henry C. Settlage. Reared on the home farm in German township, Fred E. Settlage received his early schooling in the primitive schools of that neighborhood, and was just under thirteen years of age when his father died. He remained with his mother for some years, aiding his brothers in the labors of maintaining the place, and then became employed as a carpenter, a vocation he followed for seven years, at the end of which time, in association with his mother, he bought a tract of fifty-three acres north of the creek, in the southwest quarter of section 7 of Washington township, the place on which he is now living, three miles north and west of New Knoxville, and there has resided ever since, coming into full possession after the death of his mother. Mr. Settlage is a good farmer and during the days of his activity on the farm added to his holdings until now he is the owner of an excellent farm of

126 acres, a part of which lies over the line in St. Marys township, and which is now being operated by his son, Louis H. Settlage. Mr. Settlage always has given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and formerly was active in local politics, for eleven years having served as a trustee of Washington township, and also for some time as a school director and as road supervisor in his district. In his present political leanings he holds himself independent of party ties. He and his family are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville, and he has served the congregation of that church as a deacon in years past. He also for about twenty-five years was superintendent of the Sunday school. Fred E. Settlage married Mary Wierwille, a daughter of William Wierwille, and also a member of one of the old families of Washington township, and to this union have been born five children, William A., Sophia E., Magdalena, Louis H. and Theodore, all of whom are married. William A. Settlage married Magdalena Fledderjohann and has had three children, Victor (deceased), Arnold and Phoebe. Sophia E. Settlage is the wife of Henry Buckloh. Magdalena Settlage married F. H. Hilgermann and has four children, Theophilus, Alvin, Lois and Grace. Louis H. Settlage, who is now operating the old home place, renting the same from his father, married Rosa Hiel and has had four children, Herman, Lydia, Noah and Rhinehart (deceased). Theodore Settlage married Selma Wiethoff and has three children, Emil, Richard and Benjamin. Mr. Settlage has seen this region develop from its pioneer condition and has many an interesting story to tell of the days long gone when conditions of living here were far more difficult than now. Though past eighty years of age, he continues to take a lively interest in affairs and is a genial host in his pleasant home.

HERMAN ROETTGERMANN, a former trustee of Jackson township and one of that township's well known and substantial farmers and landowners, proprietor of a well-improved farm just northeast of Minster, besides farm lands in the neighboring county of Shelby, is a native son of Auglaize county, born on the farm on which he is now living in Jackson township, and has lived here all his life, a period of seventy years, during which he has been a witness to some amazing changes in the manner of living contrasted with that of the days of his boyhood. Mr. Roettgermann was born on June 2, 1852, and is a son of Bernard and Catherine (Reithmann) Roettgermann, who were natives of Germany, where they were married, and who not long afterward, in 1849 (following the revolution of 1848), came to this country and made their way out here to the Minster settlement in Auglaize county. In his home land Bernard Roettgermann had been a weaver and a farm hand, working on the land during the summers and at his loom during the winters, and

upon coming here started in as a tenant farmer in the Minster neighborhood. For two years he was thus engaged and then he bought an "eighty" in the southwest quarter of section 24 of what then was German township, but which a few years later, upon the division of that township, became a part of Jackson township, less than a mile northeast of the Minster corporation line, and there established his home. He was a good farmer and as his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of 116 acres, and there he spent the remainder of his life. To him and his wife were born four children, three of whom, Henry, Elizabeth and Herman, grew to maturity, and of whom the latter now alone survives. Bernard Roettgermann and wife were members of the Catholic church, and their children were reared in that faith. Herman Roettgermann grew to manhood on the home farm northeast of Minster, and his schooling was received in the Minster schools. He remained with his father on the farm, and after his marriage made his home there, taking over the management of the place in his father's behalf, and after the latter's death came into possession and has ever since lived there. Since coming into possession, Mr. Roettgermann has caused to be erected an entire new set of buildings on this farm, and has in other ways brought its improvements up to modern standards. He has increased his land holdings there until now he owns 144 acres in that piece and has besides a farm of 108 acres in Shelby county, which is well improved. In 1914 he rented the home farm to his eldest son, Joseph Roettgermann, who is married and lives on the place, and since then has been taking things somewhat easier than during the many years of his more active operations. Mr. Roettgermann is a Democrat with "independent" leanings and has for years given his close attention to local civic affairs. For six years he served the public as a member of the board of trustees of Jackson township, and he also has rendered service as pike superintendent and as road supervisor. He and his family are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster, and he has rendered service to the parish as a member of the board of church trustees. Herman Roettgermann married Anna Senger, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, daughter of Frank and Catherine (Vielhaber) Senger, and to this union seven children have been born, Anna, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Bernardine, Frank and Bernard, the four elder of whom are married. Anna Roettgermann married John Fortman and has one child, a daughter, Gertrude. Mary Roettgermann married Henry Albers and has eight children, Alfred, Edward, Ida, Marcella, Bertha, John, Henry and Hannah. Joseph Roettgermann, who, as noted above, is now farming the home place, married Minnie Sexstrow and has two children, Mary and Jeannette, and Elizabeth Roettgermann married Henry Otte and has four chil-

dren, Vernon, Frederick, William and Marion. The Roettgermans have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Minster and have ever taken an interested part in the community's general social activities. Mrs. Roettgermann was born on the farm adjoining the Roettgermann place on the south, her father, Frank Senger, having been one of the substantial farmers and landowners of that neighborhood there northeast of Minster. Both Frank Senger and his wife were natives of Germany, but were married in this country. He came to this country in the days of his young manhood and for some years thereafter was engaged working in Cincinnati. In the late '40s of the past century he came up into this part of Ohio and began farming, becoming the owner of an excellent farm of 120 acres just north and east of Minster, where he and his wife spent their last days. Of the children born to them, four grew to maturity, Joseph, Bernard and Frank Senger and Mrs. Roettgermann, the latter of whom now alone survives.

EMIL SEEWER, one of Salem township's well-known farmers and proprietor of a well-improved farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys, where he has become established as a progressive and successful agriculturist, is a European by birth, but has been a resident of this country for the past forty years, and thus regards himself as thoroughly an American. Mr. Seewer was born in the town of Gasteg, in the republic of Switzerland, September 24, 1859, and is a son of John and Catherine (Gainder) Seewer, both also natives of Switzerland, who spent all their lives in that country. John Seewer was a tailor by vocation and also was postmaster in his home town, a man of importance and influence. He and his wife were the parents of five children, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Caroline, Catherine and Emma, and a brother, Godfrey Seewer. Reared at Gasteg, Emil Seewer received his schooling in the schools of that town and grew to manhood there. He served his term in the army of the republic, where compulsory military training has been for many years a feature of the country's civic life, and when twenty-three years of age married Sophia Marret, who also was born in Switzerland, and with his bride came to America, proceeding on out into Ohio, and in 1883 locating at St. Marys, in this county, where he became employed in the brick yard. A year later he began working on a farm in that vicinity, and thus acquired a knowledge of and taste for farming that was to influence his whole after life. Two years later he rented a farm in Salem township and began farming on his own account, and was thus engaged in that township for thirteen years, at the end of which time he moved onto a farm in Noble township, where he was engaged in farming for five years, or until he returned to Salem township and bought the farm of eighty-two acres on which he is now living in that township

and where he ever since has resided. Since taking possession of this farm Mr. Seewer has made numerous improvements of a substantial character and has a comfortable home and a well-equipped farm plant. He carries on his operations in accordance with modern methods and is doing well. To Mr. and Mrs. Seewer have been born twelve children, all of whom are living save one son, Louis, the others being John, Henry, Walter, Lawrence, Albert, Fred, Carl, Caroline, Clara, Emma and Lulu. Mr. and Mrs. Seewer are members of St. Paul's church at St. Marys and are independent in their political views. Mr. Seewer is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Kossuth, and of the encampment of that order at Spencerville, and takes a warm interest in lodge affairs.

JACOB BACHMANN, one of the well-known farmers and landowners of Duchouquet township, proprietor of a well-kept place on rural mail route No. 6 out of Wapakoneta, where he and his family are very comfortably situated, is of European birth, but has been a resident of this country since he was twenty years of age, a period of more than forty years. Mr. Bachmann was born on a farm in the vicinity of Eising Castle, Germany, May 9, 1862, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Schmidt) Bachmann, both of whom also were born in that vicinity and who spent all their lives there. Jacob Bachmann grew to manhood in his native land, and when twenty years of age, in 1882, came to America, locating at New York city, where for fourteen months he was engaged as a baker. He then came to Ohio and began working on the farm of his uncle, Jacob Grebe, in Washington township, this county, and after three years rented a farm in this county and started in as a farmer on his own account, being thus engaged for four years, at the end of which time he gave up that farm and began working "by the month," continuing thus engaged until three years after his marriage, when he bought a "forty" in Duchouquet township, a part of the place on which he is now living, and has since made his home there. Since taking possession of that place Mr. Bachmann has made numerous substantial improvements on the place and now has a well-equipped farm plant. He also has added to his holdings by the purchase of an adjoining tract of twenty acres, and thus has a well-improved farm of sixty acres, in the operation of which he is doing well. In his political views, Mr. Bachmann is a Democrat. It was in 1889, five or six years after he came to this county, that Jacob Bachmann was united in marriage to Ottilie Schneider, and to this union three children have been born, but one of whom (Rudolph) is now living, the others having been one who died in infancy and Louisa. Rudolph Bachmann married Agnes Duvall and has six children, James, John, Doris, William, Elizabeth and Irma.

ALBERT HUDSON, one of the well-known farmers of Washington township and proprietor of a well-improved farm about three miles northwest of New Knoxville, was born on a farm along Center branch, in section 24 of St. Marys township, on September 1, 1870, and is a son of Elijah and Margaret (Combs) Hudson, both of whom also were born in this state, the latter at Wooster, in Wayne county. The late Elijah Hudson was born in Franklin county and was eight years of age when he came over into this part of the state with his parents, Jesse Hudson and wife, the family settling on a tract of something more than 100 acres of land which Jesse Hudson had entered from the Government along Center creek, in the northwest quarter of section 18 of Washington township, in 1834, two years after the Indians had left this region, and two years before the town site of New Knoxville had been platted, this land at that time lying in Allen county, that having been fourteen years before the erection of Auglaize county. Jesse Hudson, the pioneer, made a clearing there, and with the aid of his sons got a farm under cultivation and there spent the remainder of his life, and it was on that pioneer farm that Elijah Hudson grew to manhood, thoroughly familiar with the difficult details of creating a farm in a woodland wilderness. In the meantime he was realizing the growing value of lands in this region and bought a tract of 160 acres over the line along Center branch, in section 24 of St. Marys township, where he established his home after his marriage. There he resided for years, or until in the final disposition of his father's estate he bought the old home place in Washington township, the place where his son, Albert, is now living, and moved back there. And on that place, where he had spent his youth, he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on December 18, 1903. He was the owner of 240 acres of land and had long been accounted one of the substantial and influential men of that neighborhood. To Elijah Hudson and wife were born nine children, seven of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch (the last born) having two sisters, Mollie and Martha, and four brothers, William C., Jesse, John G. and James C. Hudson. Reared on the farm, Albert Hudson received his schooling in the neighborhood schools in St. Marys township (district No. 4), and from the days of his boyhood has been attentive to farming. He continued farming with his father until the latter's death about twenty years ago, when he took over the home farm in Washington township and has continued to reside there. Mr. Hudson is the owner of an excellent farm of 116 acres, which he has improved in admirable fashion, and he and his family are very comfortably situated. He is an independent Democrat and attends the United Brethren church, of which his wife is a member. Albert Hudson married Louise M. Hoewischer, daughter of W. M. and Louise (Storch) Hoewischer,

and to this union have been born six children, Elijah, Sylvanus, Gertrude, Paul, Virgil and Betty Jean. The Hudsons have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 4 out of St. Marys.

FRED WUEBKER, one of Auglaize county's most substantial landowners and a well-known farmer of Jackson township, proprietor of a well-improved farm in the northeastern corner of that township, about a mile and a half northeast of Minster, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. Mr. Wuebker was born on September 15, 1866, and is a son of Fred and Mary (Ronabaum) Wuebker, both of whom were born in Germany, but were married in this country, to which they had come in the days of their youth. The senior Fred Wuebker was not yet twenty years of age when he came to America, a poor boy, hoping here to establish himself in a better position in life than any that then gave promise in his home land. He came over in a sailing vessel that was eighteen weeks in making the passage, and when he landed was well nigh "strapped" so far as cash was concerned. By the time he reached Cincinnati, which was his objective point on coming here, he had but 95 cents left, but he had a stout heart and willing hands, and it was not long until he had a job and was beginning to see his way clear. For two years Fred Wuebker carried brick at Cincinnati, and later worked in the pork house, and then he married and came up into this part of the state to start in on the realization of his hopes to become a farmer and landowner. For five years after his arrival in this county he was engaged in farming on rented lands, and then he bought a "forty" in the northeast corner of Jackson township, a part of the place now owned there by his son, Fred, and on that place established his home. He "made good" on his venture and later bought an adjoining "eighty," and then as his affairs prospered added further to his holdings until he became the owner of 147 acres there northeast of Minster, and on that place spent his last days, his death occurring in 1912, he then being eighty-seven years of age. To the senior Fred Wuebker and wife were born seven children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mary and Johanna, and two brothers, Henry and Bernard Wuebker. The junior Fred Wuebker was reared on that farm, and from boyhood his attention has been given to the improvement and development of the place. He received his schooling in the schools at Minster, and for six years after his marriage continued to work in association with his father on the home place. He then bought the farm of 147 acres and has continued to make his home there, meanwhile doing much in the way of development and improvement. Mr. Wuebker has, besides this place, another farm of 124 acres in Jackson township, a farm of 120 acres in VanBuren township, in the

neighboring county of Shelby, and a farm of eighty acres in Turtle Creek township, in the latter county, besides another quarter section, 647 acres in all, and thus is accounted one of the well-to-do landowners of this county. He has five sets of buildings on his land and in all his operations is doing well. In his political views Mr. Wuebker holds himself independent of party ties. He and his family are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster, and he is a member of St. Augustine's Orphan Society. Fred Wuebker married Mary Bernhold, a daughter of Charles Bernhold, whose farm adjoined the Wuebker place on the north, and to this union have been born ten children, Emma, Cecelia, Henry, Bernard, Johanna, Frances, Lauretta, Rose, Robert and Clarence, four of whom are married. Emma Wuebker married Robert Pleiman and has two children. Cecelia Wuebker married Joseph Sager and has four children. Henry Wuebker married Dorothy Winner and has one child, and Johanna Wuebker married Julius Hoying and has one child. The Wuebkers have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster.

FRED HABERKAMP, a former trustee of Washington township and a well-known farmer of the New Knoxville neighborhood, proprietor of a well-kept farm lying just north of that village, was born on that place and has lived there all his life. Mr. Haberkamp was born on January 15, 1866, and is a son of Adolph and Elizabeth (Schroer) Haberkamp, both natives of Germany, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the Haberkamps and the Schroers becoming early settlers of the New Knoxville neighborhood, in what is now Auglaize county, but which at the time of the coming of these families was a part of Allen county. Adolph Haberkamp was about seventeen years of age when he came here with his parents, the family locating in Washington township. Work on the canal then was in progress, and his father took the contract to excavate one mile of that project, a work which he successfully carried out, and young Adolph went to work with his father on that job and helped him carry it through to completion, thereafter helping him in the equally strenuous job of clearing and developing the home farm in the woods there north of New Knoxville. On July 19, 1848, Adolph Haberkamp married Elizabeth Schroer, and thereafter devoted his time to farming on his own account, and became the owner of an excellent farm of ninety-nine acres, a part of the place now owned and occupied by his son, Fred. On that place Adolph Haberkamp died on January 9, 1885, he then being in his sixty-fourth year, for he was born on December 27, 1821, and his widow survived him for some years. They were the parents of eleven children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch and his brother, George Haberkamp, further reference

to whom is made elsewhere in this volume. Reared on the home farm there in the vicinity of New Knoxville, Fred Haberkamp received his schooling in the village schools, and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the home farm. After his father's death he took charge of the place in his mother's behalf, and after her death he took over sixty-five acres of the farm, a holding which he since has increased to seventy-two acres, and has continued to live there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Haberkamp is a Republican and has rendered public service as a trustee of Washington township and as a member of the local school board. He and his wife are members of the First Reformed church at New Knoxville, and he has served as a deacon of the congregation. Fred Haberkamp married Louise Mary Wiethoff, then a resident of St. Marys township, and to this union have been born five children, Hilda (who died at the age of twenty-three years), Leona, Gustave, Bertha and Arnold, but one of whom (Leona) is married, she being the wife of Harry Meckstroth and has one child, Margaret Mary. Mrs. Haberkamp was born in St. Marys township and is a daughter of Henry and Sophia (Kuck) Wiethoff, members of pioneer families in this county, who were married here. Henry Wiethoff was born in Germany and was about seventeen years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and settling in this county. After his marriage he established his home on a farm in St. Marys township, the owner of sixty acres there, and on that place spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, four of whom are still living, Mrs. Haberkamp having two sisters, Mary and Anna, and a brother, Fred Wiethoff. The Haberkamp home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 4 out of St. Marys.

WILLIAM E. MILLER, a well-known farmer and landowner of Salem township, until recently a resident of Union township, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of Auglaize county and has lived in this county all his life. Mr. Miller was born on a farm in Union township on August 27, 1878, and is a son of Joseph and Martha (Hardin) Miller, both of whom were born in that same township, the Millers and the Hardins having been among the first families of that part of the county. Joseph Miller, who is now living retired from the farm, making his home at Uniopolis, is a son of Simon and Catherine Miller, who had come to Ohio from Pennsylvania and had settled in the northwest quarter of section 17 of Union township, that township then having been a part of Allen county, and had there established their home, just north of the present village of Uniopolis. Reared on the farm, Joseph Miller became a farmer on his own account, and after his marriage established his home on a farm in Union township, and as his affairs prospered

added to his holdings until he became the owner of 258 acres of land. He continued actively engaged in farming until his retirement and removal to Uniopolis, where he is now living. To him and his wife were born three children, two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Blanche. Reared on the home farm in Union township, William E. Miller received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained with his father on the farm until after his marriage, when he rented a farm in that same township and began farming on his own account. For sixteen years Mr. Miller continued as a tenant farmer, and then he bought a farm of 120 acres in Union township, where he remained until in 1917, when he sold that place to advantage and resumed farming as a renter. In 1922 he bought the farm of 150 acres on which he is now living, in Salem township, and has established his home there, carrying out some important projects in the way of improvements, with the design eventually to having one of the best farm plants in that neighborhood. In his political views Mr. Miller is "independent." For some time during his residence in Union township he served as road supervisor in his district. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Uniopolis. William E. Miller married Lavina Lhamon, daughter of Enos and Nancy (Plumer) Lhamon, and to this union have been born five children, Everett E., Rosetta B., Carrie, Ethel and J. Irvin, all of whom are at home. Everett E. Miller, the elder son, married Leone Carter and is farming on the home place. The Millers have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys.

EMANUEL F. WISWASSER, one of the trustees of Salem township and a well-known farmer and landowner of that township, was born in that township and has lived there all his life. Mr. Wiswasser was born on July 3, 1872, and is a son of George and Elizabeth (Kuhl) Wiswasser, both members of pioneer families in this county. George Wiswasser, who is now living retired at St. Marys, was born in Germany and was seven years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family coming on out into Ohio and locating in Marion county. Not long afterward they came over into Auglaize county and settled on a pioneer farm in Salem township, where the parents spent the remainder of their lives. On that pioneer farm George Wiswasser grew to manhood. He early became engaged in the lumber business, and until the big timber was got out of the way operated a saw mill, an industry which he maintained for twenty years, finding an outlet for his lumber in the canal traffic. Meantime he had bought a farm of sixty acres south of the river, in section 34 of Salem township, and upon his retirement from the mill became engaged in farming that place, remaining there until his retirement, in 1913, and removal to St. Marys, where he and his

wife are now living. They are the parents of seven children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having five sisters, Matilda, Josephine, Alice, Clara and Lilia, and one brother, Albert Wiswasser. Reared on the home farm in Salem township, Emanuel F. Wiswasser received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and was early trained to the ways of the farm. As a young man he was for some time engaged as a contractor in road construction, but after his marriage established his home on a farm in Salem township and was for ten years engaged as a tenant farmer. He then bought the farm of eighty acres on which he is living in that township, and has ever since resided there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Wiswasser has done well in his farm operations and has bought a "forty" adjoining his home farm. He is a Democrat, one of the recognized leaders of that party in his home township, and is now serving as a township trustee, his term of service on the board of trustees having begun on January 1, 1922. He is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Kossuth, and of the encampment of that order at Spencerville, and takes a proper interest in the affairs of the order. It was in 1898 that Emanuel F. Wiswasser was united in marriage to Martha Bowersox, daughter of Frank Bowersox, and a member of one of the old families of Logan township, and to this union have been born seven children, Ernest, Lester, Mildred, Laurel, Jacob, Gerald and Helen, all of whom are at home. The Wiswassers have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Marys.

AUGUST ZIEGENBUSCH, one of Jackson township's well-known farmers, proprietor of a well-improved farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster, was born in that township on August 11, 1865, and is a son of J. H. H. and Henrietta (Ortman) Ziegenbusch, both of whom were born in Germany, but had become residents of this country in the days of their youth, later becoming useful pioneers of the Minster neighborhood, in this county. The late J. H. H. Ziegenbusch was seventeen years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family locating at New Bremen, which then was in Mercer county, that having been before the erection of Auglaize county. He secured employment on the canal construction project and for some time after the completion of the canal was further employed in the operations attendant upon canal traffic. After his marriage he devoted his attention to farming and bought a tract of 132 acres just east of the canal, a mile north of Minster, in the northwest quarter of section 23 of township 7, which on the division of German township became the north line of Jackson township, and on that place spent the remainder of his life, increasing his holdings until he became the owner of a farm of 150 acres. To him and his wife were born eight children, two of whom died in

infancy, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Julianna, Henry, Charles, William and Sophia. Reared on the home farm, a mile north of the Minster corporation line, August Ziegenbusch completed his schooling in the New Bremen schools, and from the days of his boyhood was a helpful factor in the labors of improving and developing the home farm. After his marriage he bought the place on which he is now living, established his home there, and has ever since resided on that place, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Ziegenbusch has a well-kept farm of eighty acres, and a well-equipped farm plant, and is doing well in his operations. He is a Republican, and he and his family are members of St. Peter's Evangelical church at New Bremen, of which congregation he is one of the deacons and formerly was a member of the board of trustees. August Ziegenbusch married Clementine Boesel, daughter of Chris Boesel, and a member of one of the pioneer families of the community, and to this union three children have been born, Elmer, Julia and Pauline, the latter of whom died in infancy. Julia Ziegenbusch married Lafe Egbert and has one child, a daughter, Verna.

H. A. BRUEGGEMAN, one of German township's well-known farmers and landowners, now living retired at New Bremen, where he has made his home for the past seven years, was born on a pioneer farm about a mile northwest of New Bremen, in German township, August 3, 1849, and is a son of Eberhardt and Hannah (Sager) Brueggeman, both natives of Germany, who were among the pioneers of the New Bremen neighborhood. Eberhardt Brueggeman came to this country in the days of his young manhood and presently became engaged working on the canal which then was being constructed up through this part of the state. He decided to settle in the New Bremen neighborhood and bought a tract of forty acres about a mile northwest of that town, where he established his home and began to clear and develop his farm. He later bought an adjoining tract of forty acres, and thus had a farm of eighty acres, on which place he and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Elizabeth and Mary. Reared on the old home farm in German township, H. A. Brueggeman received his schooling in the little old log school house which then served its purpose as a school in his home district, and from the days of his boyhood gave his attention to the labors of the farm, farming with his father until, upon the latter's retirement, he bought the place of eighty acres and began to farm on his own account. He prospered in these operations, and after awhile bought an adjoining tract of twenty acres, this giving him a farm of 100 acres, which he still owns, and upon which he continued to make his home until his re-

tirement from the active labors of the farm in 1915 and removal to New Bremen, where he since has made his home and where he and his family are quite comfortably situated. He owns a tract of nine acres surrounding his town house, and thus has ample ground on which to carry out his gardening inclinations and keep him pleasantly occupied in his retirement. For thirty-five years he operated a threshing rig in his neighborhood, starting with a horse-power machine, which he operated for eight years. For six years he was appraiser for the German Fire Insurance Company, and was for six years president of that company. Mr. Brueggeman has been twice married. His first wife, Anna Jordon, daughter of Christopher Jordon, died, leaving one child, a daughter, Anna. Mr. Brueggeman then married Mary Jordon, his deceased wife's sister, and to this union five children have been born, of whom two are now living, Clara and Leona, the latter of whom is unmarried. Anna Brueggeman married George Thompson and has two children, Clinton and Alton. Clara Brueggeman married Herman Fork and has six children, Lester, Elmer, Herbert, Gladys, Helen and Marie. Mr. and Mrs. Brueggeman are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church, and he has served the congregation of that church as a deacon and as the president of the board of trustees. In his political views he reserves to himself the right to vote independently of party ties.

HENRY FOLTZ, one of Logan township's farmers and landowners, the proprietor of a farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of Hume, is a native of Illinois, but has been a resident of Auglaize county since he was ten years of age, he having come here with his parents just after the close of the Civil war. Mr. Foltz was born in Jasper county, Illinois, in 1856, and is a son of Simon Foltz, who later became a resident of Auglaize county, and on his farm in Logan township spent his last days. Simon Foltz was a Virginian by birth, who grew up as a carpenter and cooper, and who after his marriage located in Jasper county, Illinois, where he remained until 1865, when he came with his family to Ohio and located in this county, buying a tract of eighty acres of land in Logan township, where he established his home. He and his wife were the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Sarah. As noted above, Henry Foltz was ten years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1865, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Logan township, completing his schooling in the neighborhood district school. Upon the death of his father he inherited a "forty" of the home place, and to this he later added by purchase an adjoining tract of forty-one acres. Henry Foltz married Anna Bruner, who was born in Sandusky county, Ohio, and to this union one child was born, a son, Zelin Foltz, who married Sarah Thomas and died leaving one child, a son, Leo. Mr. and Mrs. Foltz are members of the Christian Union church.

HERMAN LAMMERS, one of Washington township's veteran farmers, now living practically retired on his well-kept farm, the old Lammers homestead, along the county line a mile southeast of New Knoxville, was born on that place and has lived there all his life, a period of more than seventy years, and has thus seen that region develop from pioneer days. Mr. Lammers was born on February 28, 1850, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Wierwille) Lammers, both of whom (natives of Germany) had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the Lammers and the Wierwille families becoming pioneers of this section of Ohio, back in the days when the lands now occupied by their descendants in Washington township were included within the confines of Allen county, long before Auglaize county was erected. Henry Lammers was a well-grown lad when he came here with his parents, and his first labors here were performed as a workman on the construction of the canal, these labors procuring for him a sum of money which he invested in a tract of land in the woods in the southwest quarter of section 28, just southeast of New Knoxville, in Washington township, and after his marriage he established his home there. He was a good farmer, and as he cleared and improved his place he added to his holdings until he became the owner of no less than 240 acres, including a fine farm of 200 acres in Washington township and an adjoining forty over the line in Shelby county, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, useful and influential members of that community. They were the parents of nine children, all but two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Sophia, Fredericka, Magdalena and Anna, and two brothers, Ernst and Louis Lammers. Reared on the home farm there southeast of New Knoxville, Herman Lammers received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and from the days of his boyhood was a helpful factor in the labors of developing the home farm. After his marriage he rented a portion of his father's place and has continued to live there, buying the interests of the other heirs in the place after his father's death. Since coming into possession of this place Mr. Lammers has made extensive improvements, including the erection of a new set of buildings, and has an excellent farm plant. He owns 198 acres, a part of which lies over the line in Shelby county, and his farm is profitably cultivated. Though of late years he has been living practically retired from the active direction of the farm, he and his wife continue to make their home there, and he keeps an interested eye on affairs generally. In his political views Mr. Lammers is an "independent." He and his wife have for years been active in the affairs of the Reformed church at New Knoxville, in the faith of which church their children were reared, and he has served as a deacon of

HERMAN LAMMERS AND FAMILY

the congregation. Herman Lammers married Mary Ferleman, also a member of one of the pioneer families of Washington township, and to this union have been born eight children, Anna, Fred, Wesley, Matilda, Hilda, Benjamin, Otto and Salome, all of whom are married save the two last named. Anna Lammers married George Hoelscher and has five children, Martha, Noah, Esther, Ruby and Elmer. Fred Lammers married Matilda Fledderjohn and has four children, Paul, Tabitha, Silas and Victor. Wesley Lammers married Elizabeth Fledderjohn and has two children, John and Loren. Matilda Lammers married August Fledderjohn and has two children, Vernon and Almeda. Hilda Lammers married Henry Henschen and has two children, Robert and Curtis, and Benjamin Lammers married Louetta Kolthoff. Mrs. Mary Lammers was born in Washington township and is a daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Knappe) Ferleman, who came to this country shortly after their marriage in their native Germany and proceeded on out into this section of Ohio, settling on a farm in the New Knoxville neighborhood. Some years later they moved down over the line into Shelby county, where Henry Ferleman bought a farm and where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of five children, three of whom are still living, Mrs. Lammers having two sisters, Fredericka and Louise. The Lammers home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 2 out of Botkins.

ALBERT HALE NEFF, former trustee of Duchouquet township and one of the best known retired farmers and landowners of Auglaize county, now living at Wapakoneta, where until lately he has been employed as a county bridge inspector, is a member of what without fear of contradiction may be said to be the real "first" family of Auglaize county, for he is a great-grandson of Francis Duchouquet, the French trader and interpreter of whom so much has been said in the historical section of this work, who established his trading post at Wapakoneta back in the Indian days, long before there was any thought of permanent white settlement here, and whose valued services to the Government as an interpreter and scout were requited when there was set off to him by formal treaty one full section of land (section 30 of Duchouquet township), known as the Duchouquet reserve, when the Government was carrying out its final dealings with the Indians here, all of which is set out in detail elsewhere. It will be recalled that Francis Duchouquet died in the East while on a mission to Washington in behalf of the Indians following the cession of their lands here in 1831, and was buried at Cumberland. It is said that Francis Duchouquet was born at Presque Isle, a son of a French trader, and that he followed in his father's footsteps and in time became one of the best known Indian traders in what then was

known as the Territory Northwest of the Ohio, the range of his operations extending from the Ohio river to Lake Erie, with his headquarters and trading post at the Indian village of Wapakoneta, the head of pirouge navigation on the Auglaize from this section of Ohio through the Maumee to the Lake, and so situated that with a narrow portage his traffic also could be carried on down to the Ohio, from the headwaters of the Miami not far south of his trading post. It also will be recalled that Francis Duchouquet upon establishing his post here took to wife a Shawnee girl, daughter of one of the chiefs, a custom almost invariably followed by these venturesome and hardy French traders, trappers, voyageures and couriers du bois, for of white women of course there were none to give them companionship in the wilds, and with this Shawnee wife he established his home at the point along the riverside just west of the present city limits of Wapakoneta, north of the lower bridge, at what for many years has been known as the Neff place, and where Albert H. Neff made his home until his retirement from the farm and removal to town. It thus is through this Shawnee wife of Francis Duchouquet, the man about whose memory so many interesting local traditions cluster, that Albert H. Neff has his strain of Indian blood, a strain which not only is quite apparent in his physique, but in which he has no small measure of pride, for the Shawnees were among the very best of the aboriginal breeds on this continent. One of the daughters of Francis Duchouquet and his Shawnee wife married Peter (Pierre) Hammel, also of French stock, and a daughter of this union married Joseph Neff, father of Albert H. Neff. Pierre Hammel is said to have come down here from Canada about the time of the close of the War of 1812 and to have established a trading post at the Wapakoneta Indian village, concerning which circumstance full details are set out in the historical section of this work. In 1816 he married Francis Duchouquet's daughter and established his home with Duchouquet on the latter's reserve at what is now the west edge of town, on the north bank of the river, and he and Duchouquet operated together until the latter's death, in 1831, after which Hammel (through his wife) came into possession of half of the Duchouquet mile square. Pierre Hammel and his wife had four children, two of whom, Pamelia and Theresa, grew to maturity and were married. Pamelia married Joseph Neff and Theresa Hammel married William Craft and the Hammel estate in time became divided between the Neffs and the Crafts, the eastern half of section 30 having been divided about equally between the two. Joseph Neff was a Pennsylvanian, born on Russell Creek in 1818, and was but ten or eleven years of age when he came out into this section of Ohio about 1829 and began working in the St. Marys neighborhood, doing such work as a boy could do in carrying on

clearing operations. Not long afterward he made his way to Toledo and there served an apprenticeship to a millwright. In 1834, two years following the departure of the Indians from the Wapakoneta reserve, he returned here and became engaged in the employ of Doctor Holbrook, "the father of Auglaize county," driving oxen and looking after some of the Doctor's extensive land clearing operations hereabout, and was thus engaged until his marriage in 1839, he then being twenty-one years of age, to Pamelia Hammel. After his marriage Joseph Neff settled on the Hammel farm, which by this time was beginning to be developed along agricultural lines, in time came into possession of the same through inheritance, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1891, he then being seventy-three years of age. His wife had long preceded him to the grave, her death having occurred in 1856. They were the parents of three children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the last born and of whom two survive, Mr. Neff having a sister, Mrs. Emma Davis, now a resident of Chicago. Albert Hale Neff was born on the old Neff farm on the Duchouquet reserve on October 27, 1856, and was but an infant when his mother died. He was reared on the farm, his aunt and his older sister having charge of his childhood, and he received his schooling in the local schools. He early was trained as a practical farmer and continued working on the farm in association with his father until the latter's death in 1891, after which he took charge of the farm—a well-improved place of 128 acres—and continued operating the same for some years thereafter, or until his retirement from the farm, when he became employed in the Wapakoneta wheel works as a turner and for thirteen years thereafter was thus employed, during this long period of employment losing an eye through accident. Upon giving up his place at the wheel works he took up gardening on the home farm and was thus engaged until in 1920, when an attack of illness prostrated him and he decided to give up farming. With that end in view he bought his present home at 303 Defiance street and has since resided there, he and his family being very pleasantly situated. Upon moving to town Mr. Neff became employed as a county bridge inspector and was so engaged until in the fall of 1921, when he suffered an injury which determined him to retire from further active service. Mr. Neff is an earnest Republican and has ever sought to promote the interests of that party. In 1916 he was elected to represent his district as a member of the board of trustees for Duchouquet township and served a term in that capacity. In his fraternal relations he is affiliated with the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. His sons also are members of this order and are likewise members of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective order of Elks, and one of his sons, Russell Neff, is a veteran

of the World war. It was in 1884 that Albert Hale Neff was united in marriage to Maud Wentz, daughter of Charles and Edith Wentz, of this county, and to this union have been born six children, three daughters, Mrs. Ada Smith, Mrs. Margaret Rumbaugh and Mrs. Virginia Kuntz, and the three sons, Joseph, Russell and Milton Neff.

WILLIAM STOLTE, one of the best known residents of Washington township, a substantial farmer and landowner, living on his well-kept place on rural route No. 1 out of St. Marys, is a European by birth, but has been a resident of this country and of Auglaize county since he was sixteen years of age, a period of more than fifty years. Mr. Stolte was born in the Prussian province of Westphalia, Germany, April 25, 1855, and was thus sixteen years of age when, in 1871, his parents, William and Elizabeth (Fornhorst) Stolte, came to this country with their family of three children, Henry, William and Sophia, and settled on a farm in Washington township, this county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Upon coming here the junior William Stolte entered the night school which then was being conducted at New Knoxville, and which was designed to give newcomers from a foreign land an opportunity to acquire a working knowledge of the language spoken in their new country, and about the same time he entered himself as an apprentice to a local carpenter and builder, with a view to learning the carpenter trade. He served a three years' apprenticeship, for which he received for his service the sum of $135, and then began to work as a carpenter throughout the neighborhood, a vocation which he followed for seven years, or until his marriage, when he settled on the farm on which he is now living, renting there a tract of 120 acres, and thus entered upon the career of farming which ever since has engaged him. For some years he rented this place and then bought it and began to make the improvements which in the years since have given him a very well-equipped farm plant there. Mr. Stolte has done well in his operations and now has 180 acres, renting out the second tract of sixty acres, which he bought some years ago. He is a Republican and has rendered public service as road supervisor and for some years as director of schools in his district. Mr. Stolte married Sophia Fennemann, of the New Knoxville neighborhood, and to this union eight children have been born, five of whom are living, Louis, William (III), Harry, Matilda and Emma, all of whom are married save Harry, who is still on the farm with his father. The Rev. Louis Stolte married Mary Lutterbeck and has one child, a daughter, Naomi. William Stolte, Jr., married Sarah Clausing and has three children, Robert, Dorothy and Forest. Matilda Stolte is the wife of Benjamin Schultz, and Emma Stolte married Hugo Kattman and has had three children, Paul, Louis and Irene Ruth (deceased). The Stoltes are members of the Reformed church

at New Knoxville, and Mr. Stolte is now serving in his fifteenth year as an elder of that congregation. He also served for two years as a deacon of the church. Mrs. Stolte was born in Cincinnati and was but a child when she came up into this part of the state with her parents, William and Esther Fennemann, natives of Germany, the family settling at New Knoxville, where William Fennemann became engaged in the milling business, operating a flour mill and a saw mill, and was thus engaged until these mills were destroyed by fire. He rebuilt the saw mill, and in this latter business continued active until his death, miller at New Knoxville for nearly fifty years. He also was widely known hereabout as an auctioneer, and for years cried public sales throughout this part of the state. William Fennemann and wife were the parents of eight children, four of whom are still living, Mrs. Stolte having three sisters, Minnie, Dora and Emma.

FREDERICK W. SCHROER, SR., one of Washington township's veteran farmers and proprietor in association with his son Fred, of a well improved place east of New Knoxville, rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Marys, was born on that place and has lived there all his life, a period of nearly seventy-five years, during which time he has witnessed the development of that region from its pioneer state. Mr. Schroer was born on October 13, 1848, a few months after the formal organization of Auglaize county, and is a son of H. H. and Christine (Feggenbaum) Schroer, natives of Germany, who came to this country following their marriage and for a time thereafter made their home in Cincinnati, presently coming up into this section of Ohio, where they spent the remainder of their lives. H. H. Schroer was a tailor by trade and upon locating at Cincinnati following his arrival in this country set up as a tailor and was for a few years thus engaged in that city. He then became attracted to the possibilities awaiting land settlement up in this part of Ohio and came up here and bought a small farm in Shelby county and started in clearing the place and getting a start as a farmer. Some years later he disposed of his holdings there and moved up into Auglaize county and bought a farm of eighty acres in the New Knoxville neighborhood, where he established his home and spent the rest of his life. His widow survived him for some years increasing her holdings to 120 acres. They were the parents of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch, the seventh in order of birth, now is the only survivor, the others having been Herman, William, Henry, Ernst, Adolph, Elizabeth and Christina. Reared on the home farm in Washington township, Frederick W. Schroer received his schooling in the local schools. He continued farming with his father until the latter's death and thereafter for some time managed the place in his mother's behalf. He then bought the home tract of 120 acres and began to farm on his own account

and has ever since made his home there. Since taking possession of that place, Mr. Schroer has made extensive improvements and has a well equipped farm plant. He also has increased his land holdings until he now owns 160 acres there, besides a farm of 140 acres in Mercer county, and is very comfortably situated. He is a Republican and has rendered public service as a director of schools in his district. He and his family are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville and he has served as a deacon of that congregation. Mr. Schroer married Mary Fledderjohann, daughter of Henry Fledderjohann and a member of the well known pioneer family of that name in Washington township, and to that union six children were born, Wilhelmina, Henry (deceased), Sophia, Louise, Fred, Jr., and Mary, all of whom married save Sophia, who is at home. The mother of these children died on September 29, 1912. Wilhelmina Schroer married William Warner and has one child, a daughter, Luella. The late Henry Schroer married Emma Fenneman and died leaving one child, a son, Harry. Louise Schroer married William Soerhoff and has two children, Ada and Mary. The junior Fred Schroer, who is now farming in partnership with his father, married Sophia Hoge and has two children, Marcella and Enoch, and Mary Schroer married Henry Vohs and has three children, Rinehart, Leonard and Olga.

JOSEPH J. MEYER, one of the trustees of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Egypt and a well known farmer and landowner of Jackson township, proprietor of a well kept farm in the upper part of the "neck" of that township, in section 6 of township 8, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life, now the third in direct line of Meyers who have owned the place, the original "forty" of which was entered from the government by his grandfather, who settled there in pioneer days. Mr. Meyer was born on February 14, 1872, and is a son of Bernard H. and Caroline (Rolfes) Meyer, both members of pioneer families in that neighborhood. Bernard H. Meyer, who is now living retired in the home of his son, Joseph, was born on that farm and is a son of Bernard Meyer and wife, who had come to this country following their marriage in their native Germany and had located in Cincinnati, later coming up into this part of the state and settling on the place here referred to, the pioneer, Bernard Meyer, entering there from the Government a tract of forty acres, on which he established his home and which has since remained in the family possession. The pioneer increased his holdings there to ninety acres and on that place spent the remainder of his life, the farm coming into possession of his son, Bernard H. Meyer, who is still living there, making his home with his son, Joseph, who bought the place from his father upon the latter's retirement, and his children constitute the fourth generation of the

family continuously resident on the place. Bernard H. Meyer grew up on that farm and after his marriage to Caroline Rolfes, who also had grown up in the Egypt neighborhood, established his home there and presently came into possession of the place, which upon his retirement he sold to his son, Joseph, the only son of the family. To Bernard H. Meyer and wife were born four children, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Catherine, Anna and Mary. Reared on the home farm there in the "neck" of Jackson township, Joseph J. Meyer received his schooling in the school at Egypt and from the days of his boyhood was a valuable aid to his father in the labors of developing and improving the farm. After his marriage he rented the place and thus operated it as a tenant farmer for about ten years, at the end of which time he bought the farm of ninety acres and has since been farming on his own account and is doing well in his operations. Mr. Meyer is a Republican. He and his family are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Egypt, and he is a member of the board of trustees having in control the valuable property held by that parish. He also is a member of the St. Joseph Society, and has long given his earnest attention to parish affairs. Joseph J. Meyer married Catherine Hohne, daughter of Henry and Mary (Ankenbauer) Hohne, and to this union have been born seven children, Rose, Laurence, Justine, Edward, Alvina, Emma and Matilda. The Meyers have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Ft. Loramie.

ALBERT L. CROW, one of Duchouquet township's well-known farmers and proprietor of a well-improved farm in the valley of Two Mile creek, on rural mail route No. 4 out of Wapakoneta, was born on a farm in Moulton township on November 7, 1876, and is a son of William A. and Lydia (Clawson) Crow, in their generation well-known residents of that township. The late William A. Crow was born in that same township and was a son of Samuel Crow, one of the pioneers of that part of the county, who had settled there on a farm of 110 acres, and whose last days were spent there. On that pioneer farm William A. Crow grew to manhood, becoming a practical farmer. After his marriage he established his home on a seventy-acre farm he had bought in the Glynwood neighborhood and there resided for several years, at the end of which time he moved to an "eighty" he had bought in the northern part of the township and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on November 5, 1915. He had been successful in his farming operations and at the time of his death was the owner of 150 acres in Moulton township, eighty acres in Logan township, and 105 acres in Stokes township, over in Hardin county. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, all of whom are living save one (Marcus), the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Minnie, Mattie

and Nettie, and four brothers, Everett, Warren, Robert and Verne Crow. Reared on the home farm in the northern part of Moulton township, Albert L. Crow received his schooling in old district No. 7 school, and from the days of his boyhood has given his chief attention to farming. When twenty-three years of age he began farming on his own account, renting a farm of eighty acres in Logan township. When twenty-five he married and established his home there, remaining there for six years thereafter, at the end of which time he bought the farm of seventy-seven and one-half acres on which he is now living, in the northwestern part of Duchouquet township, and has since resided there, he and his wife being very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Crow has made numerous substantial improvements on the place and has a well-equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming, he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well in his operations. It was on April 20, 1902, that Albert L. Crow was united in marriage to Loa Spees, who also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here. Mr. and Mrs. Crow have a pleasant home and take an interested part in the community's general social activities. In their political views they are Democrats.

J. FRED FELDWISCH, a former trustee of Washington township and a well-known farmer of that township, proprietor of a well-kept farm along the county line about two miles southeast of New Knoxville, was born on that place and has lived there all his life, a period of more than sixty years. Mr. Feldwisch was born on October 4, 1859, and is a son of William and Christina (Logermann) Feldwisch, natives of Germany, who were among the influential pioneers of that section of the county. William Feldwisch came to America in the days of his young manhood and made his way out into this section of Ohio. The work of constructing the canal then was in progress and he became employed on the canal crew, working on that big job of engineering until it was completed, and after his marriage settled down on a farm, buying an "eighty" in the woods in the southeast quarter of section 28 of Washington township, the place on which his son, Fred, now lives. On that place he built a cabin and established his home, eventually getting the tract cleared and cultivated, and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They were the parents of six children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth. Reared on that woodland farm, J. Fred Feldwisch received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and from the days of his boyhood has given his attention to the affairs of the farm. After his father's death he bought the interests of the other heirs in the place and has continued to make his home there, now the

owner of a fine farm of 110 acres, which he has improved in up-to-date fashion, and on which he has a well-equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Feldwisch has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, and has done well in his operations. He is a Republican, and for eleven years served as a trustee of Washington township. He also has rendered public service as a member of the school board. He and his family are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville, and he has served as a member of the board of trustees of that congregation, and as a deacon of the church. J. Fred Feldwisch married Caroline Schroer, also a member of one of the old families of this section of Ohio, and to this union have been born eight children, seven of whom are living, Matilda, George, Henry, Benjamin, Lydia, Lawrence and Cornelia, three of whom are married. Matilda Feldwisch married Benjamin Henschen and has four children, Adelma, Raymond, Ruth and Lillian. The Rev. George Feldwisch, now pastor of the Reformed church at Bluffton, Ind., married Ruth Wagoner and has two children, Arlisle and Alois. Lydia Feldwisch married Ferd Henschen and has one child, Howard. Dr. Henry Feldwisch, a graduate of Ohio State University, where he qualified in veterinary surgery, is now state veterinarian for the state of Ohio, with headquarters at Columbus. Benjamin, Lawrence and Cornelia Feldwisch are unmarried and at home with their parents. The Feldwisch home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Marys. Mrs. Feldwisch also was born in Washington township and is a daughter of William and Mary (Steinecker) Schroer, natives of Germany, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, and who grew up here and were married. The late William Schroer was about fourteen years of age when he came to this section of Ohio with his parents back in pioneer days, and he grew to manhood on a woodland farm which his father bought in Washington township. As a young man he spent three summers in Cincinnati, making the trips on foot, and there worked in a brick yard to get some ready cash with which to buy a bit of land here at home. With this money he bought a "forty" in the New Knoxville neighborhood, and after his marriage established his home there, later increasing his holdings by the purchase of an adjoining forty. Some years later he disposed of that farm and bought a farm down in Shelby county, but after a few years of residence there returned to Auglaize county and bought the place on which his son, William H. Schroer, is now living in Washington township, a farm of 107 acres, and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in March, 1910. His widow survived him for more than three years, her death occurring in August, 1913. They were the parents of six children, three of whom are living, Mrs. Feldwisch having a sister, Sophia, and a brother, William H. Schroer.

MATHIAS J. GERSTNER, a former member of the Wapakoneta city council, formerly and for years engaged in blacksmithing in that city, and now living on his well-kept farm in Duchouquet township, on rural mail route No. 1 out of Wapakoneta, is a native son of Auglaize county, and has lived here nearly all his life, the exception being a period during the days of his young manhood when he was engaged in blacksmithing at Piqua. Mr. Gerstner was born on a farm in Pusheta township, just east of Freyburg, January 4, 1871, and is a son of John and Mary (Eisert) Gerstner, the latter of whom died on September 26, 1896. John Gerstner, who is now living retired at Botkins, down over the line in Shelby county, was born in Germany, and in his youth came to America with his parents, John Gerstner and wife, the family proceeding on out into Ohio, in 1850, and landing at St. Marys, on a canal boat. They presently moved onto a farm east of Freyburg, in Pusheta township, this county, which the elder John Gertsner bought, and on which the family home was established. On that place the junior John Gerstner grew to manhood, becoming a practical farmer. After his marriage he rented a farm in that neighborhood and started in farming for himself, about ten years later buying a farm of eighty acres there, which he later increased to 182½ acres, and there continued farming until his retirement in 1913 and removal to Botkins, where he is now living. To him and his wife were born nine children, all of whom are living save two (Mary and Henry), the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Catherine, Elizabeth and Anna, and three brothers, George, Joseph and John Gerstner. Reared on the home farm in Pusheta township, Mathias J. Gerstner completed his schooling in the Catholic parochial school at Freyburg, and at the age of seventeen entered upon an apprenticeship in a blacksmith shop at Freyburg, where he learned his trade. Upon attaining his majority he went to Piqua, Ohio, where he opened a blacksmith shop and became there engaged in business on his own account. A couple of years later he married and established his home at Piqua, where he continued to reside until in 1896, when he disposed of his interests there and moved to Wapakoneta, where he opened a blacksmith shop and was there engaged in business for twenty years, or until 1916, when he closed out his business and bought the eighty-acre farm in Duchouquet township, where he is now living, and where he since has been engaged in farming. Since taking possession of that place Mr. Gerstner has made numerous improvements on the place and has a well equipped farm plant. He is a Democrat, and for some time during his residence in Wapakoneta served as a member of the city council. It was on September 26, 1893, that Mathias J. Gerstner was united in marriage to Mary Wehrle, who was born in Clay township, this county, and who also is a member of one of the pioneer

families here, a daughter of Jacob Wehrle, and to this union four children have been born, one of whom (Harold) is deceased, the others being Joseph, Catherine and Leo. The elder son, Joseph Gerstner, married Marie Gehrlich, and is farming in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Gerstner are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Wapakoneta, and he is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and of the St. Martin's Society.

CLEM WINNER, assessor of Jackson township, and one of that township's best known and most progressive farmers, proprietor of a well-kept farm in the extreme southwestern corner of the township, was born in the neighboring county of Shelby and has been a resident of this part of the state all his life, with the exception of a brief period not long after his marriage, when he was a resident of Covington, Ky. Mr. Winner was born on April 3, 1872, and is a son of Anton and Caroline (Hoying) Winner, the latter of whom also was born in Shelby county, a member of one of the pioneer families in the upper part of that county. The late Anton Winner was born in Germany and was but two years old when he came with his parents, Frank Winner and wife, to this country. Upon his arrival here, Frank Winner for some time made his home in Cincinnati, and then moved with his family up into this part of the state and settled in Shelby county, where Anton Winner grew to manhood and became engaged in farming, a vocation he followed the remainder of his life. After his marriage he established his home in a log cabin built in the woods on a tract of 120 acres he had bought, and in good time made a good farm out of that place and increased his holdings to 140 acres. To Anton Winner and wife were born nine children, all of whom are living save one, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Catherine and Mary, and five brothers, Charles, Frederick, Henry, Joseph and Anton Winner. Reared on the home farm in Shelby county, Clem Winner received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood, and from his boyhood was well trained to the ways of the farm. After his marriage he rented the home farm and there continued to make his home for about three years, at the end of which time he moved to Covington, Ky., where he made his residence for one year. The lure of the farm then brought him back to the old neighborhood and he returned here and bought 100 acres of what was known as the Anton Wisman place, in the extreme southwest corner of Jackson township, this county, covering more than half of the west side of the "neck" of that township, in sections 6 and 7 of township 8, bounded on the west by Mercer county, and on the south by Darke county, and including the headwaters of Mile creek, and there established his home. Since then Mr. Winner has bought the remainder of the Wisman place and now has a fine farm of 172 acres. Since taking possession of this place he has made

numerous substantial and up-to-date improvements on the place, has two sets of buildings, all lighted by electricity, and is well established. In addition to his general farming, he feeds out about seventy-five head of hogs a year and is doing well in his operations. Mr. Winner is a Democrat and has been serving the public as assessor of Jackson township since 1918. He and his family are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Egypt, and he formerly was one of the trustees of the church. Clem Winner has been twice married. On November 25, 1896, he was united in marriage to Josephine Ratermann, a daughter of Bernard and Louise (Hege) Ratermann, and to this union were born six children, Dorothy, Edward (deceased), Leo, Lauretta, Ernest and Laurence, the eldest of whom, Dorothy, married Henry Wuebker and has one child, a son, Richard. Mrs. Josephine Winner died, and then Mr. Winner married her sister, Catherine Ratermann. The Winners have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Ft. Loramie and are quite comfortably situated.

WILLIAM SMART, a well-known farmer of Washington township, now living practically retired on his well-improved place along the county line about three miles east and south of New Knoxville, is a native of Scotland, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his early infancy, and of this section of Ohio since he was five years of age, a period of nearly seventy years, he thus having been a witness to the development of this region since pioneer days. Mr. Smart was born on March 25, 1849, and was but a babe in arms when his parents, Walter and Jane (Graham) Smart, also natives of Scotland, left their home land in that same year and came to America. Walter Smart proceeded west with his family upon his arrival in this country and located at Cincinnati, where he remained for about five years, or until in 1854, in which year he came with his family up into this section of Ohio and settled on a woodland farm in Van Buren township, Shelby county, just over the line from Auglaize county. He bought a tract of forty acres there, made a clearing, built a cabin and started in to make a farm out of his place. As he got this tract developed he bought other land and then further increased his holdings until he became the owner of no less than 300 acres, a part of which lay up over the line in Auglaize county, and there he and his wife spent their last days, ever helpful and influential residents of that community. Of the children born to them, five lived to maturity, and of these, four are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Isabel and Janet, and a brother, Robert Smart. As will be noted by a comparison of dates above, William Smart was five years of age when his parents settled on the farm down over the line in Shelby county, and he grew to manhood there, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools. After his

marriage his father gave him a piece of land in Van Buren township, where he continued engaged in farming until about twenty years ago, when he moved to his present place across the road in Washington township and has since made his home here. Mr. Smart has a well-improved farm of 220 acres, including his holdings in the two counties, and he and his family are very comfortably situated. In 1907 he retired from the active labors of the farm, but has never lost his interest in the general operations of the same and continues to keep a pretty close supervisory eye on things. In his political views Mr. Smart is a Republican. He is a member of the United Brethren church. William Smart married Lavina J. Roberts (now deceased), daughter of Jesse Roberts, and to that union five children were born, all of whom are living save one daughter, Jennie, the others being Charles, Catherine, Janet and Elizabeth, all of whom are married save Janet, who continues to make her home with her father. Charles Smart married Ida Opperman and has two children. Catherine Smart married William Heineman, and Elizabeth Smart married Fred Opperman and has seven children. The Smart home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Marys.

JOSEPH J. PRENGER, president of the Jackson township board of education and one of the progressive young farmers of that township, proprietor of a well-improved farm down in the "neck" of Jackson township, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. Mr. Prenger was born on March 22, 1887, and is a son of Herman and Catherine (Dalinghaus) Prenger, the latter of whom was born in the neighboring county of Mercer, a member of one of the pioneer families there. The late Herman Prenger was born in the adjacent county of Shelby and was there reared, from youth trained to the ways of the farm. After his marriage he bought a tract of 107 acres on Mile creek, just north of the Darke county line, in the "neck" of Jackson township, this county, in section 7, and on that place established his home and spent the remainder of his life. He was a good farmer and as his affairs prospered added to his holdings until he became the owner of 287 acres. He and his wife were the parents of five children, four of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Anna, and two brothers, Henry and Frank Prenger. Reared on the farm on which he was born, Joseph J. Prenger received his schooling in the Egypt school, and from boyhood was a helpful factor in the labors of developing and improving the home farm. After his father's death he continued farming there, in his mother's behalf, until after his marriage, when he took over the operations of the farm surrounding the home place and presently came into ownership of that tract of 100 acres, which he still owns and which he has improved in admirable shape. Mr. Prenger has a well-equipped farm plant and his

operations are carried on in accordance with modern methods of agriculture. He gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. He has long taken an active and influential interest in local civic affairs and is now serving the public as the president of the township board of education, of which board he has been a member since 1916. In his political views his leaning is toward independence of party ties. He and his family are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Egypt, and for one term he was a member of the board of trustees holding the valuable property of that parish. It was in 1909 that Joseph J. Prenger was united in marriage to Cecelia Wehrman, daughter of Bernard and Elizabeth (Heitbrink) Wehrman, members of old families in the Egypt neighborhood, and to this union have been born seven children, Bernadine, Lauretta, Stella, Victor, Irene, Marcus and Velma. The Prengers have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Ft. Loramie.

CALEB F. GAYER, a former member of the board of trustees of Salem township and present president of the board of education in that township, and in other ways active in the general affairs of the community, a substantial farmer and landowner and one of the best known men in that part of the county, is a European by birth, a Wurtemberger, but has been a resident of Ohio and of Auglaize county since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Gayer was born in the kingdom of Wurtemberg on February 13, 1853, and was eight years of age when his parents, John G. and Magdalena Gayer, came with their family to America and located in Marion county, this state. John G. Gayer had been a shepherd and farmer in his native country, and upon settling in Marion county in 1861 bought a farm in that county and established his home there. Two years later, however, he became attracted to the situation that then was developing over here in Auglaize county, and he sold his Marion county farm, and in 1863 bought an "eighty" in the northeast quarter of section 4 of Salem township, this county, and moved here, and it was here that he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, John J. Gayer. As will be noted by a comparison of the dates set out above, Caleb F. Gayer was ten years of age when his parents came to Auglaize county, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Salem township, completing his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. After his marriage he bought forty-five acres off the north end of the home place and established his home there. Mr. Gayer has been a good farmer, and as his affairs prospered he added to his holdings there, until now he is the owner of a fine farm of 185 acres on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys. Of late years he has been "taking things easy," renting his land to his two sons, who are carrying on operations

there in up-to-date fashion, and is thus able to devote more time to other interests which he has developed during his many years of active labor. Mr. Gayer is a Republican and has long been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in Salem township. He served one term as a township trustee and is now the president of the township board of education. He was one of the organizers of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry and was first master of that grange. He also is a past noble grand of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Kossuth, and is a member of the encampment of that order at Spencerville. For many years Mr. Gayer has been one of the leaders of the congregation of the German Methodist Episcopal church at Spencerville, an office bearer in the church for years, and is a present member of the board of trustees of that church. His wife, who died on October 26, 1917, also was an active worker in the church and in the general social affairs of the community. She was Esther Kurtz, a daughter of Andrew Kurtz, and she and Mr. Gayer were the parents of five children, three of whom are still living, Andrew Wesley, Daniel and Mary, the latter of whom is the wife of Benjamin Bauman and has one child, Benjamin F. Andrew Wesley Gayer married Margaret Stewart and has five children, Inez, Ada, Raymond, Leverne and Esther. Daniel Gayer married Elsie Kessler and also has five children, Bernard, Edwin, John, Kenneth and Mary Ruth. As noted above, the Gayer brothers are now operating their father's farm and are doing well.

BERNARD J. HEITKAMP, proprietor of a well-kept farm in the northwestern part of Jackson township, is a member of the pioneer Heitkamp family, which has been actively connected with the development of that part of Auglaize county since pioneer days, and concerning which further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Mr. Heitkamp was born on a farm in the northwestern part of Jackson township on September 2, 1871, and is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Goeke) Heitkamp, both members of pioneer families hereabout, as is set out elsewhere, Joseph Heitkamp having been a son of Henry Heitkamp, who came up here from Cincinnati following his marriage there not long after his arrival in this country from his native Germany, and who became prominent among the pioneers of the then newly settled lands in the western part of this county. He was a carpenter by trade and also took a hand in the construction of the canal. Joseph Heitkamp, his son, became a well-to-do farmer in the "Egypt" neighborhood, the owner of a farm of 200 acres, on which his family of eight children were reared. Of these children, the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Mary, Catherine, J. H., Anthony, John, Joseph and Elizabeth. Reared on the home farm, Bernard

Heitkamp received his schooling in the school house at Egypt, and from the days of his youth his attention has been devoted to farming. For two years after his marriage he made his home on a rented farm over in Mercer county, and then he bought a farm of eighty acres in Granville township, that county. On that place he made his home until 1913, when he disposed of his interests there and bought the farm of 130 acres on which he is now living, in Jackson township, this county, in the neighborhood of his boyhood home, and has ever since resided there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Heitkamp has a well-equipped farm plant, and in addition to his general farming gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding out about sixty head of hogs a year. Bernard J. Heitkamp married Catherine Gehle, daughter of John Gehle, and to this union have been born twelve children, nine of whom are living, Mary, Raymond, Bernard, Elizabeth, Rose, Alphons, Bernadetta, Cecelia and Rita. The Heitkamps have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster. They are members of St. John's Catholic church at Maria Stein, and Mr. Heitkamp is a member of the St. Joseph Society. In his political leanings he holds himself independent of party ties.

BYRON SHAPPELL, a well-known and progressive young farmer of Duchouquet township, who, in association with his brothers, Eldon and Howard Shappell, is operating the old Shappell farm along Two Mile creek, in the northwestern part of Duchouquet township, was born on that place on March 3, 1887, and is a son of D. U. and Nora (Coon) Shappell, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that section. The latter's father was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, and her mother was born in Orange county, New York. The late D. U. Shappell was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, and was but two years of age when he came to this county with his parents, George and Mary (Reigel) Shappell, both of whom were born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, the former a son of Yarmes Shappell, a native of Switzerland. The family settled in the woods along the creek in the northwest corner of Duchouquet township, where the family home was established and has ever since been maintained. The original tract there was an "eighty," on which the pioneer grandfather of the subject of this sketch erected a log cabin and settled down to make a farm out of the place, later enlarging his holdings until he came to be regarded as one of the substantial farmers of that section. Four of his sons, George, Nelson, Sol and Dan, served as soldiers of the Union during the Civil war. It was on that pioneer farm in Duchouquet township that D. U. Shappell grew to manhood, well trained in the ways of the farm. After his marriage he established his home there, later acquired possession of the place, built up and improved it by the erection of new

D. U. SHAPPELL AND WIFE

buildings and the general extension of the farm plant, and gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of an excellent farm of 300 acres there, part of this farm extending over the line into Shawnee township, in the neighboring county of Allen. And it was on this farm that he spent his last days, his death occurring on October 30, 1921, and his sons are now carrying on the operations of the farm in accordance with the program that he had so carefully worked out. Besides these sons, Eldon, Byron and Howard, there is a sister, Zelma. On March 30, 1907, Byron Shappell was united in marriage to Almeda Edna Neff, who also was born in this county, and to this union two children have been born, Harold Eugene and Ada Vandetta. Mr. Shappell and his wife are members of St. Mathew's Lutheran church and are Democrats. They have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Hume and have ever given their interested attention to the general social activities of the community in which they live. Mr. Shappell has taken a proper interest in local civic affairs and for one term served as a trustee of Shawnee township, over the line in Allen county.

PHILIP BROREIN, a well-known bachelor farmer of Logan township, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county and the farm on which he is now living since he was five years of age. Mr. Brorein was born on a farm in Marion county, Ohio, May 12, 1859, and is a son of Gebhard and Sophia (Gracely) Brorein, the latter of whom also was born in that county, daughter of Jacob Gracely, and a member of the Gracely family which later became established in Logan township, this county, and which is still prominently represented in this county. The late Gebhard Brorein, who for years was one of the best known residents of Logan township, was born in the grand duchy of Baden, and lived there until after he had attained his majority, when he came to the United States and became a resident of Ohio, locating in Marion county, where he married Sophia Gracely, and where he continued to live, the owner of a sixty-acre farm, until 1865, when he disposed of his interests in that county and moved over here into Auglaize county. Upon coming to this county Gebhard Brorein bought a tract of land consisting of 140 acres lying in the southwest quarter of section 28 and the southeast quarter of section 29 of Logan township, two miles west of the river, and there established his home. When he settled there that was woodland and he faced the difficult task of clearing and draining the place and making a farm out of it. Not long afterward he bought an adjoining tract of ten acres, this giving him a farm of 150 acres, which he gradually got improved, and on which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on April 23, 1909. His widow long survived him. After his death she continued to make her home on the farm, and

her death occurred there in August, 1922. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Christena, Emma and Wilhelmina, and six brothers, William G., Jacob, David, John, Wesley and Samuel Brorein. As noted above, Philip Brorein was but a child when he came to Auglaize county with his parents, in 1865, and he was reared on the home farm in Logan township. He received his schooling in the school in old district No. 3 and continued to farm with his father until the latter's death, in the spring of 1909, after which he continued to look after the place in his mother's behalf, and since the death of his mother has continued the management of the farm, which is well improved and profitably cultivated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Brorein has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, and has done well. He is a Republican and a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The Brorein home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 3 out of Wapakoneta.

WILLIAM EARL REMPFER, one of Logan township's progressive young farmers, who is operating his father's farm in that township, has been a resident of the place on which he is now living since he was eighteen months old. Mr. Rempfer was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Allen on July 24, 1886, and is a son of John and Emma (Croft) Rempfer, who are now living retired at Wapakoneta. John Rempfer grew up to farming, and after his marriage established his home on a farm of eighty acres he owned in Allen county, where he made his home until 1887, in which year he disposed of his interests in that county and came down into Auglaize county and bought an "eighty" in Logan township, on this latter place making his home until his retirement from the farm in 1913 and removal to Wapakoneta, where he is now living. He was a good farmer and he increased his original holdings in Logan township until he became the owner of 160 acres, the place his son, Earl, is now farming. To John Rempfer and wife were born three children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Myrtle, and a brother, Harvey Rempfer. As noted above, William Earl Rempfer was but an infant when his parents came to this county, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Logan township. He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and from the days of his boyhood has devoted himself to farming there, continuing to work the place after his father's retirement, and after his marriage established his home there. He is farming the 160-acre farm in accordance with modern methods of agricultural operation and is doing well. Mr. Rempfer, on September 2, 1922, married Hazel Logan, of the neighboring county of Van Wert, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 3 out of Wapakoneta. Mr. Rempfer is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd

Fellows at Kossuth, of the lodge of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Wapakoneta, and of the Salem grange of the Patrons of Husbandry, and in his political views is an "independent."

CHARLES A. MECKSTROTH, a well-known farmer and dairyman of the New Knoxville neighborhood and proprietor of a well-improved farm just south of the village, along the county line in the southeast quarter of section 30 of Washington township, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life, a period of considerably more than fifty years. Mr. Meckstroth was born on January 27, 1865, and is a son of H. W. and Christina (Quiller) Meckstroth, both of whom were born in Germany and had come here with their respective parents in the days of their youth. H. W. Meckstroth was fourteen years of age when he came here with his parents, the family settling in the New Knoxville neighborhood, in section 30 of Washington township, which then was included in Allen county, that having been some time before Auglaize county was organized. Work on the canal then was in progress and young Meckstroth began working on that construction, and was thus engaged until the completion of this big job of engineering, he also having had a hand in the erection of the west bank of the Grand Reservoir. This work, of course, was only carried on to advantage during the summer time, and during the winters he worked on his father's woodland farm, helping to clear the same and get it in shape for cultivation. After his marriage he continued to devote his attention to farming and became the owner of a farm of a fraction more than ninety-eight acres just south of New Knoxville, the place where his son, Charles, is now living. H. W. Meckstroth not only was a good farmer, but he took an interested part in the general affairs of the community and for some time served as a school director. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Sophia, and two brothers, George H. and E. H. Meckstroth. Reared on the home farm there along the creek south of New Knoxville, Charles A. Meckstroth received his schooling in the nearby village schools. After his marriage he continued farming with his father, the two then forming a partnership, and this mutually agreeable arrangement continued for ten years or more, or until his father's death, after which he took over the home place and has since been operating it on his own account. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Meckstroth has erected a new set of buildings and now has an admirable farm plant there on rural mail route No. 2 out of Botkins. In 1910 he branched out into the dairy business and has since given the better part of his attention to this line, though continuing his general farming, his operations now being carried on in partnership with one of his sons-in-law, Ferd Wellman. Mr. Meckstroth has a fine herd of purebred

Holstein dairy cattle and the products of his dairy are chiefly disposed of in the retail market at New Knoxville. Mr. Meckstroth is a Democrat, with independent leanings, and on several occasions has served the public as a school director in his district. He and his family are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville, and he has served the congregation of that church as a deacon and as a member of the board of trustees. Charles A. Meckstroth married Anna Lammers, daughter of Henry Lammers, in his day a prominent farmer southeast of New Knoxville, and to this union eight children have been born, Jacob A., G. A., R. B., Caroline, Matilda, Ella, Emil and Meta, five of whom are married. Jacob A. Meckstroth married Adaline Hoelscher and has two children, Gretchen and Rachel. R. B. Meckstroth married Huldah Oelrich and has one child, a son, Donald. Caroline Meckstroth married Emil Holtkamp, who died in 1918, and has one child, a son, Dorsey. Matilda Meckstroth married A. R. Fledderjohann, and Ella Meckstroth married Ferd Wellman, who, as noted above, is now operating the Meckstroth farm in partnership with his father-in-law and making his home on the place.

JOSEPH H. HEITKAMP, proprietor of a well-kept farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster, in the northwestern part of Jackson township, and one of the best known farmers in that section, was born in Jackson township, a member of the pioneer Heitkamp family of that part of the county, and has lived there all his life. Mr. Heitkamp was born on January 18, 1876, and is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Goeke) Heitkamp, concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume, together with additional details regarding the history of the Heitkamp family, Joseph Heitkamp having been a son of Henry Heitkamp, a native of Germany, who came here from Cincinnati in pioneer days and established his home in Jackson township, where the family today is so strongly and influentially represented in the third and fourth generations. Reared on the home farm in Jackson township, Joseph H. Heitkamp received his schooling in the Egypt school house south of his home and remained at home, farming with his father, who was the owner of a 200-acre farm, until after his marriage, when he bought a tract of seventy-one acres in that neighborhood, the place on which he is now living, and has ever since resided there. By subsequent purchase Mr. Heitkamp now has eighty-six acres, which he is farming in accordance with modern methods of agricultural activity, and is doing well. In addition to his general farming, he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, and feeds out about sixty hogs a year. It was on November 23, 1904, that Joseph H. Heitkamp was united in marriage to Frances Bruns, a daughter of Bernard and Mary (Hagemann) Bruns, neighbors to the Heitkamps, and concerning whom and the Bruns family in general further mention is

made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union four children have been born, Clara, Albina, Alfred and Alma. The Heitkamps have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster. In his political views Mr. Heitkamp is "independent." He and his family are members of St. John's Catholic church at Maria Stein, of which the Heitkamp and Bruns families have long been earnest supporters, and he also is a member of the St. Joseph Society.

GEORGE HABERKAMP, one of the trustees of Washington township and superintendent of pikes in and for that township, one of the best known farmers and landowners in the New Knoxville neighborhood, was born in that township, a member of one of the real pioneer families there, and has lived there all his life. Mr. Haberkamp was born on a farm just north of New Knoxville, on January 2, 1870, and is a son of Adolph and Elizabeth (Schroer) Haberkamp, who had come to this country from Germany with their respective parents in the days of their youth and had grown up in the New Knoxville neighborhood, where the Haberkamps and the Schroers had settled upon coming out here in pioneer days. As is narrated elsewhere in this volume, Adolph Haberkamp, born in 1821, was a well-grown boy when he came here. His father took the contract to excavate one mile of the canal, which was then under way of construction, and the boy, Adolph, helped out on that job, working for several years on the canal. He later helped his father develop the woodland farm the latter had taken in the vicinity of New Knoxville, and after his marriage in the summer of 1848 established his home on a farm of his own there just north of the village, and there spent the rest of his life, his death occurring in 1885. His widow survived him for some years, and her last days also were spent on the farm. Adolph Haberkamp and his wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch and his elder brother, Fred Haberkamp, a former trustee of Washington township, and further mention of whom is made elsewhere in this volume. Reared on the home farm in Washington township, George Haberkamp received his schooling in the nearby New Knoxville schools and remained at home on the farm, a helpful factor in the labors of developing the same, he having been but fifteen years of age when his father died, until after his marriage, when he moved onto the place on which he is now living and has since made his home there. Mr. Haberkamp has a well-improved farm of ninety-four acres and a well-equipped farm plant. He is a Republican and has long given his active attention to local civic affairs. In 1915 he was appointed superintendent of pikes in and for Washington township and has since been serving in that important capacity, having done much in that time to advance the cause of good roads thereabout. In 1919 Mr. Haberkamp was elected a

trustee of Washington township and is now (1923) serving his second year in that capacity, the general affairs of the township receiving his close attention. He and his wife are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville, and he has served the congregation of that church as a deacon. It was on August 21, 1890, that George Haberkamp was united in marriage to Lena Kuck, daughter of Henry Kuck, and also a member of one of the old families of this county, and to this union two children have been born, Ferdinand and Viola, the latter of whom is still in school. Ferdinand Haberkamp married Selma Elshoff and is engaged in farming, taking over the active operation of the farm in his father's behalf, the latter having practically retired from the more arduous duties of the farm. The Haberkamp home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 4 out of St. Marys, and the latchstring is always out to their friends.

CHARLES BOESEL, who for many years was one of the foremost figures in this community during the days of the pioneers, a particularly prominent factor in the development of the commercial life of New Bremen during early canal days, and an equally influential factor in the political life of this county, died nearly forty years ago, but his memory has ever been kept green in this community. It therefore is but fitting that in this definite history of the county in whose affairs he took so deep an interest there should be paid some modest tribute to that memory, together with a bit of proper connecting reference to the Boesel family continuing in this county. Elsewhere in this work reference has been made to the general activities of the pioneer Charles Boesel upon his arrival here shortly after the establishment of the Bremen colony here, in 1833, and of his final acceptance of the possibilities awaiting the intelligent and industrious settler in this then wilderness section of Ohio, and of the beginnings of his industrial and commercial activities in the then formative period of the community, which activities were greatly expanded upon the coming of the canal ten years after his settlement here, and it makes a good story. Charles Boesel was born in Rhenish Bavaria, Germany, on February 1, 1814, and when eighteen years of age, in 1832, about the time of the unsuccessful political revolution in his home country, which led to such an extensive immigration to America in that year and in the few years following, he came to this country, accompanying his widowed mother and the three other children of this family. In the next year this family joined the Bremen settlement up here in the wilds along the old Wayne trail, but there was little here then to engage the activities of the young and energetic Charles, and he pushed on presently to Ft. Wayne, and then back down to Dayton and other such places as could afford him occupation, and was thus engaged until in 1836, when he returned to New Bremen and there opened a small general

store. This was the beginning of the Boesel commercial connection hereabout, a connection which has continually expanded in all the years since, and which now finds its widest expression in the Boesel banking interests at New Bremen. When the canal came, Charles Boesel was on the ground and ready to meet the new opportunities, and he met them open handed and whole hearted. Not long after he had opened his store at New Bremen he had been appointed postmaster of the settlement, and this official position gave him a local political ascendance which was maintained in that community until his death, many years afterward. In 1852 he was made one of the superintendents of the Miami and Erie canal by appointment of the state board of works. A later state appointment was that of member of the state board of charities, a position he held for many years and until his death. In 1862 he was elected representative from this district to the General Assembly of the state of Ohio, and for two terms served in that capacity, afterward being elected state senator from this district, and in this latter legislative capacity also served for two terms. He also had held various local offices of trust and responsibility, these having included a period of service as a member of the board of commissioners for Mercer county, elected in 1840, that having been eight years before the formal organization of Auglaize county. In 1866 Charles Boesel established his bank at New Bremen, an interest which still is maintained by the family, and he was thus engaged until his death, on April 17, 1885. He was the father of twelve children, of whom six survive, namely: Mrs. Dorothy Frey, of Toledo; Mrs. H. G. Schmidt, of Chicago; Mrs. W. C. Schmidt, of San Antonio, Tex.; Julius Boesel, of Mt. Gilead, Ohio; Hon. F. T. Boesel, of Milwaukee, and Mrs. J. H. Koenig, of St. Marys, this county. The late Hon. Jacob Boesel, eldest of the sons of this pioneer, who died at his home in New Bremen on August 17, 1896, was born at New Bremen on February 6, 1841. He was graduated from a commercial college at Cincinnati and early took an active part in his father's enterprises, later becoming engaged in business there on his own account, with particular reference to the pork packing industry, which during canal days was an extensive one, and upon his father's death and the reorganization of the latter's banking interests became president of the bank. Jacob Boesel inherited his father's astute political sense and rendered public service in several different capacities at one time and another, including two terms in the lower house of the state General Assembly (1889-91). He also had served as village clerk, mayor and president of the local school board. His son, Adolph Boesel, president of the First City Bank of New Bremen, an able successor to his father, has for years also served as village treasurer. In point of service he is said to be the oldest banker in these parts, of his fifty-six years he hav-

ing spent forty-two years in the banking business. Among other representatives of this family now living in this county may be mentioned Charles J. Boesel, eldest son of Charles Boesel, Jr., the second son of the pioneer, and also formerly and for years connected with the commercial interests of New Bremen, who followed in his father's footsteps a commercial career, and who has but lately retired from business. Among the grandsons of the pioneer Charles Boesel are Otto J. Boesel, well-known lawyer, and Clifton Boesel and Probate Judge R. E. Boesel, all of Wapakoneta.

BERNARD BRUNS, a veteran farmer of Jackson township, was born in the neighboring county of Mercer on October 21, 1850, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Freling) Bruns, both of whom were born in Germany. John Bruns grew up in his native land, trained to the trade of shoemaking. When twenty-two years of age he came to this country and located at Cincinnati, where he became engaged at his trade, and where he presently married. Not long after their marriage he and his wife came up into this part of the state and he entered from the Government a tract of eighty acres of timber land in Mercer county, and on that place established his home. Though trained as a shoemaker, he found himself to be a good farmer, and before his death was the owner of 500 acres of land. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the fifth in order of birth, the others being Henry, John, August, Charles, Herman and Marie. Reared on the home farm in Mercer county, Bernard Bruns received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained on the farm, working for his father, until his marriage, when he moved to the place on which he is now living in Jackson township, this county, and has since lived here. He started there with eighty acres and now has a well-improved farm of 200 acres, a part of which lies in the adjoining township of German. Mr. Bruns is a Democrat and has served as school director in his district. He and his family are members of St. John's Catholic church at Maria Stein, and he has served as a member of the board of trustees of that church. Bernard Bruns married Mary Hagemann, and to this union have been born nine children, all of whom are living save two (Bernard and Henry), the others being Elizabeth, Rosa, Frances, Josephine, Regina, Charles and Louis, all of whom are married. Elizabeth Bruns married John Knapke and has seven children, Lawrence, Helen, Eleanor, Jerome, Norbert, Leo and Albert. Rosa Bruns married John Heitkamp, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume, and has nine children, and Frances Bruns married Joseph Heitkamp, of whom further mention also is made, and has four children. Josephine Bruns married Frank Albers and has two children, Clarence and Lorena. Regina Bruns married Andrew Osterloh and has one child, a son, Victor. Charles

Bruns married Anna Meier and has two children, Richard and Hilda, and Louis Bruns married Josephine Albers.

HENRY H. WIERWILLE, one of Washington township's best known veteran farmers and a substantial landowner living on rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Marys, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county for nearly fifty years. Mr. Wierwille was born on a pioneer farm down in VanBuren township, in the neighboring county of Shelby, December 16, 1851, and is a son of Adolph and Elizabeth (Kattman) Wierwille, both of whom were born in Germany, and who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the Wierwilles and the Kattmans becoming pioneer residents of this section of Ohio. Adolph Wierwille was about twenty years of age when he came here, and he helped his father clear and develop a woodland farm in Shelby county. After his marriage he began farming on his own account and became the owner of an excellent farm of 140 acres in VanBuren township (Shelby county), where he spent his last days. He and his wife were the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Sophia and Mary, and two brothers, William and Ernest Wierwille. Reared on the home farm in VanBuren township, Shelby county, Henry H. Wierwille received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained with his father on the farm until after his marriage, when he began farming "on his own," renting a place from his father. A year later, in 1875, he came up here into Auglaize county and bought the place on which he is now living, in Washington township, and has ever since resided there. Mr. Wierwille's first purchase there was of a tract of 120 acres, but he later bought an adjoining tract and now has 160 acres, which he has improved in admirable fashion, and on which he has a well-equipped farm plant. Though now living practically retired from the active operations of the farm, Mr. Wierwille continues to keep a pretty close supervisory eye on things and has lost none of his old-time interest in affairs. In his political views Mr. Wierwille is an "independent" Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville, in which faith their children were reared. Mr. Wierwille has ever taken a warm interest in church affairs and has served as a deacon of the congregation. It was in 1874 that Henry H. Wierwille was united in marriage to Sophia Katter, a resident of the New Knoxville neighborhood, and to this union nine children have been born, of whom seven are living—Henry G., Benjamin, Edward, Louis, Anna, Bertha and Frances, all of whom are married. Henry G. Wierwille married Matilda Kuck and has six children, Adiel, Ezra, Aurora, Orville, Woodrow and Leora. Benjamin Wierwille married Minnie Fledderjohann and has three children, Velma,

Luella and Nathan. Edward Wierwille married Lydia Holtkamp and has two children, Eunice and Audrey. Louis Wierwille married Dora Gruebmeyer and has two children, Agnes and Curtis. Anna Wierwille married John Kuck and has one child, a son, Oliver. Bertha Wierville married Benjamin Haverkamp, and Frances Wierwille married Herbert Katterheinrich. Mrs. Sophia Wierwille was born in Germany and was but nine years of age when she came to this country with her parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Peterjohann) Katter, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and settling on a woodland farm one mile west of New Knoxville, in Washington township, this county, where the family home was established, and where Mrs. Wierwille grew to womanhood and was married. When Henry Katter and his wife came to this country from Germany they had five children. Seven other children were born to them here. Of these twelve children eight are still living, Mrs. Wierwille (the eldest) having three sisters, Dina, Marie and Matilda, and four brothers, Henry, William, August and Frederick Katter, the descendants of these in the present generation forming a considerable connection, Mr. and Mrs. Wierwille alone having fourteen grandchildren, "and plenty of time for more."

ANTON LOUIS HERKENHOFF, general manager of the Minster Machine Company, president of the Strenie Tool and Manufacturing Company of New Bremen, a director and general manager of the St. Marys Foundry Company at St. Marys, and who also has served as a member of the town council and of the board of public affairs at Minster, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of Minster. Mr. Herkenhoff was born at Minster on April 26, 1872, and is a son of Frank and Mary (Gausepohl) Herkenhoff, both of whom also were born at Minster, and the latter of whom is still living there. The late Frank Herkenhoff, who for many years was one of the leading business men of Minster, was the elder of the two sons of the pioneer baker Herkenhoff, one of the original settlers of Minster, who also was engaged in the cooperage business. The other of these sons was Herman Herkenhoff. Frank Herkenhoff grew up to the cooperage business and in turn became engaged in that line on his own account, the operator of a cooper shop which for years was one of the largest employers of labor in this county. For forty years he carried on that business, his product being sold to the Armour meat packing concern at Chicago. He also was actively interested in the Star Brewing Company and in the Minster Machine Company, and continued active in business until his death, in 1918, all of which is set out elsewhere in this volume in connection with a biographical sketch relating to Charles F. Herkenhoff, elder brother of Anton L. Herkenhoff and president of the Minster Machine Com-

pany. Besides these two sons, the late Frank Herkenhoff was the father of five daughters, Josephine, Caroline, Adelia, Frances and Alice. Reared at Minster, Anton L. Herkenhoff supplemented the course received in the excellent schools of that town by a course in St. Mary's College at Dayton, and upon his return from college became employed in his brother's store at Minster, and was thus employed until in 1896, when he formed a partnership with J. J. Dues, now a manufacturer of farm machinery at Minster, who at that time was operating a small machine repair shop at Chickasaw, over in Mercer county, and moved the shop to Minster. This partnership continued for about five years, at the end of which time Mr. Herkenhoff bought his partner's interest in the concern, and on August 1, 1901, incorporated the business under the firm name of the Minster Machine Company, the present concern, of which his brother, Charles F. Herkenhoff, is the president, Dr. C. L. Dine vice president, and J. W. Eiting the secretary and treasurer. Anton L. Herkenhoff has been general manager of this concern from the beginning, and under his capable direction the plant has been developed until now it is one of the most important industrial concerns in this part of the state, employing 150 men and doing a large business over a rapidly expanding trade area. The first operations of the Minster Machine Company were largely confined to the manufacture of oil field machinery, which presently were expanded to include the manufacture of power transmission machinery, and in 1916 the plant was further expanded to include the manufacture of high power drilling machines, and is even now preparing for further expansion. In addition to his interests at Minster, Mr. Herkenhoff has established himself substantially in other connections of an industrial character and is the president of the Strenie Tool and Manufacturing Company of New Bremen and a member of the board of directors and general manager of the foundry company at St. Marys. He also for years has given his attention to local civic affairs, and at the age of twenty-one was elected to represent his ward in the town council. He also has served as a member of the local board of public affairs, is a former president of the Minster Home Building Club, and was one of the organizers and most active promoters of the Minster Commercial Club. In his political views he is an "independent," and in his fraternal affiliations is connected with the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and he and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster. Anton L. Herkenhoff married Caroline Dorsten, daughter of John Dorsten, also a member of one of the old families of this region, and to this union three children have been born, a daughter, Mary, who died on April 25, 1921, and two sons, John and Victor Herkenhoff.

JOHN GEORGE KNATZ, a well-known farmer and landowner of Washington township and a former member of the board of directors of the Auglaize County Fair Association, now living retired at Wapakoneta, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life, a period of more than sixty-six years. Mr. Knatz was born in a log cabin on the old Knatz homestead place, west of Owl creek, in the southwest quarter of section 1 of Washington township, about two miles southwest of Wapakoneta, December 26, 1856, and is a son of Conrad and Louise Knatz, natives of Germany, who were married in their native country and shortly afterward came to America, proceeding on out into western Ohio and becoming pioneers of Auglaize county. Conrad Knatz bought a tract of eighty acres of uncleared land, the north half of the southwest quarter of section 1 of Washington township, upon coming here, and on that place put up a log cabin ten by twelve feet in dimension, with nothing but the ground for a floor, and started in to make a farm out of his woodland tract. From the beginning of his operations there he gave close attention to the character of the horse flesh he raised on the place and always had good horses about him. When he got this place cleared he traded one of his horses for an adjoining "forty" and thus began to extend his land holdings until he became the owner of no less than 320 acres of land and was accounted one of the most progressive farmers of Washington township. Of course, as his affairs prospered, his original log cabin gave way to a more comfortable and commodious residence, and his other farm buildings were in proportion. He always maintained his interest in fine horses and other good live stock, and was for years one of the most successful exhibitors along these lines at the county fair. Upon his retirement from the farm in his old age he moved to Wapakoneta and there spent his last days. To him and his wife were born five children, but two of whom now survive, the subject of this sketch and his brother, Dittmer Knatz, the others of these children having been Henry, John and Sophia. Reared on the home farm, John George Knatz, who is more familiarly known to his friends as George Knatz, received his schooling in the neighborhood district school (No. 6), and from the days of his boyhood gave attention to the affairs of the farm. He continued farming with his father until his marriage, when his father gave him a tract of 115 acres, a part of his present holdings there, and on that farm he established his home and began a program of development which presently gave him one of the best improved farms in the neighborhood. To this place he added by subsequent purchase until now he is the owner of 245 acres, well improved and profitably cultivated. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Knatz has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, and has done well. Even as did his father, he

has always taken a deep interest in the progress of the county fair association and for some time served as a member of the board of directors of that body. Though now living retired from the active labors of the farm, Mr. Knatz keeps a pretty close supervisory eye on things down on the farm and is alert to movements having to do with the advancement of agricultural methods hereabout. He and his family have a pleasant home at 610 West Auglaize street in Wapakoneta, just a pleasant drive distant from the farm. George Knatz married Sophia Weitz, a daughter of Charles and Mary Weitz, of this county, and he and his wife have four children, Carl H., Eda, Loretta and Alma, the last named of whom and Eda are at home with their parents. Carl H. Knatz, who is now looking after the affairs of the farm, making his home there, married Ola Frey and has two children, Harriet and Amoin. Loretta Knatz married Peter Rickert and has two children, Marjorie and Roland. Mr. Knatz is a Democrat with independent leanings, and he and his wife are members of the Evangelical church at Wapakoneta.

JOHN J. HEITKAMP, one of Jackson township's progressive farmers and landowners and a member of the pioneer Heitkamp family of that part of the county, was born in Jackson township on October 26, 1874, and is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Goeke) Heitkamp, the latter of whom was born in the neighboring county of Mercer, and concerning whom further mention, together with additional reference to the Heitkamp family in this county, is made elsewhere in this work. Joseph Heitkamp was a son of Henry Heitkamp, the pioneer, who had entered a tract of land from the Government in the northwest part of what is now Jackson township in pioneer days and had there established his home, as is set out elsewhere. Joseph Heitkamp became a substantial farmer, the owner of a good farm of 200 acres, and his family was reared on the farm. This family consisted of eight children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth. Reared on the home farm, John J. Heitkamp received his schooling in the Egypt school house, and from boyhood has been devoted to farming, a vocation he entered on his own behalf when after his marriage twenty years and more ago he bought a tract of ninety acres in the vicinity of the old home and on that place established his home and has ever since resided. Mr. Heitkamp has a good farm and is doing well, having increased his land holdings by the purchase of an adjoining tract of fifteen acres, and thus now has a farm of 105 acres. This is well improved and he has an up-to-date farm plant. In his political views Mr. Heitkamp is an "independent." He has ever taken an interested part in local civic affairs and is now school director in his district. He and his family are members of St. John's Catholic church at Maria Stein, of which he was a trustee one term, and he also is a member of the

St. Joseph Society. The Heitkamps have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster and take a proper part in the social activities of the neighborhood in which they live. It was on April 24, 1900, that John J. Heitkamp was united in marriage to Rosa Bruns, who also was born in Jackson township, daughter of Bernard and Mary (Hagemann) Bruns, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union have been born nine children, Regina, August, Ida, Edwin, Emily, Leonard, Herbert, Clarence and Oscar. Mrs. Heitkamp is the second in order of birth of the nine children born to her parents, the others being Elizabeth, Frances, Josephine, Bernard, Charles, Regina, Louis and Henry.

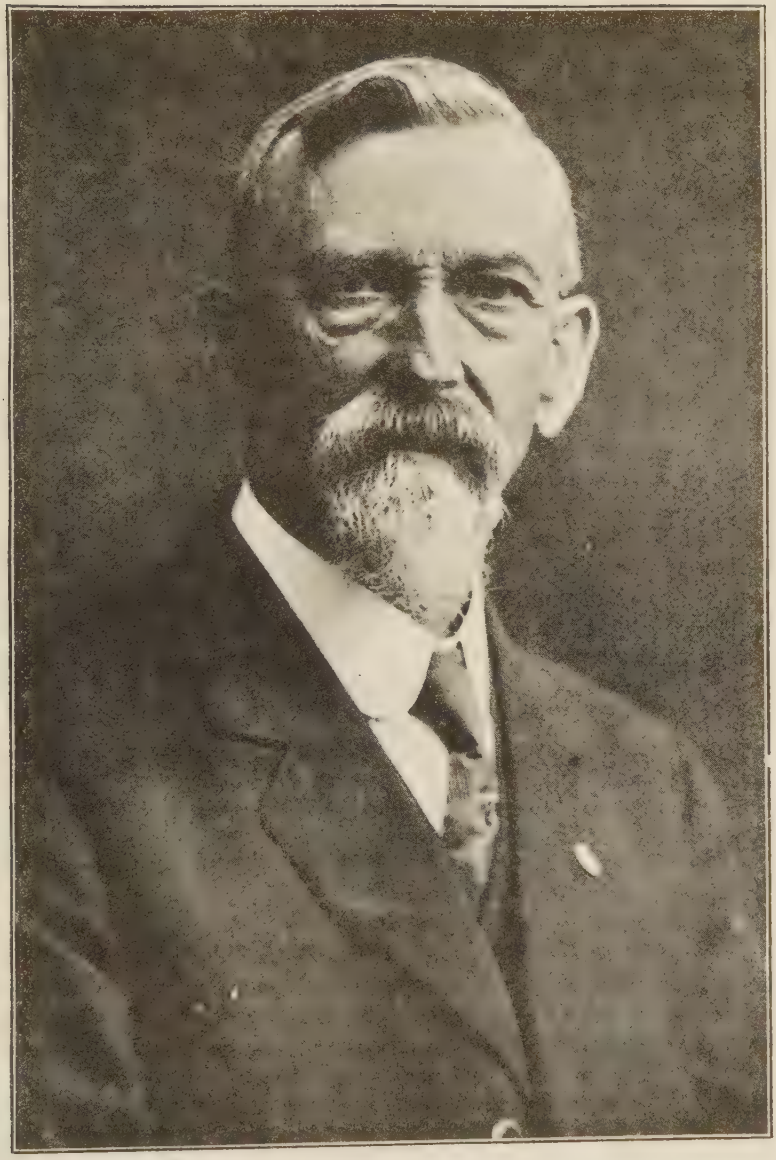
WILLIAM BRANDS, a well-known bachelor farmer and landowner, living just northwest of Wapakoneta, in the southeast quarter of section 19 of Duchouquet township, was born on the farm on which he is now living and has lived there all his life, with the exception of a period of ten years or more, when he was engaged in the business of laying cement sidewalks, his activities in that line then taking him to various cities throughout Ohio and the middle West. Mr. Brands (the name originally having been spelled Brantz) was born on July 10, 1857, and is a son of William and Mary Louise (Siheler) Brands, both of whom were of European birth, the latter born in Germany. The senior William Brands (Brantz) was born in the kingdom of Holland and was a young man when he came to this country and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating at New Riegel, in Seneca county. Not long afterward he came down into this part of the state and for a short time made his home at Minster. He then bought a tract of eighty acres adjoining the Duchouquet Reserve on the north, just northwest of Wapakoneta, and there established his home. That was an uncleared timber tract when he bought it, and he put up a log house for a dwelling place and started in to make a farm out of his place. As his affairs prospered, for he was a good farmer, he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of a fine tract of 200 acres there. On that place he spent the remainder of his life, one of the industrious and substantial farmers of the Wapakoneta neighborhood. To him and his wife were born nine children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Barbara, Gerhart, Lena, Minnie, Michael, Theresa, Joseph and John. Reared on the home farm in the vicinity of Wapakoneta, the junior William Brands received his schooling in the schools of Wapakoneta, and during the years of his young manhood was a helpful factor in the labors of developing his father's agricultural interests. Upon the death of his father he came into possession of the old home place, the original "eighty" of the Brands estate, and has since held that farm, now making his home there. He continued farming until in 1892, when he became interested in the then rapidly developing

industry connected with the laying of cement sidewalks and became a contractor along that line. For nearly ten years Mr. Brands followed this line, taking contracts for the laying of cement sidewalks in cities widely separated, including Dayton, Toledo, Cleveland and Hamilton, in this state, and as far east as Philadelphia and as far west as St. Louis. In 1901 he retired from that line and returned to his farm in this county and has since made his home here. Mr. Brands is a member of the congregation of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Wapakoneta and is affiliated with the Knights of St. John, with the St. Martin's Society, and with the Swabian Society. In his political views he is a Democrat. He lives on rural mail route No. 3 out of Wapakoneta.

GEORGE A. RASNOR, a well known farmer and landowner of this county, now living retired at St. Marys, where he has made his home for the past five years and more, was born at Eaton, in Preble county, this state, in 1849, and is a son of George and Lydia (Rudolph) Rasnor, who had located there upon coming to Ohio from Pennsylvania in the middle '40s of the past century. George Rasnor and his wife were born in Pennsylvania, where they were married and where they made their home for some years thereafter, he following the vocation of millwright. Upon settling at Eaton he continued that vocation for some years and then bought a small farm in the neighboring county of Darke, where he established his home and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in the early '90s. His widow survived him for many years, her death occurring in 1916. They were the parents of five children, the two elder of whom were born in Pennsylvania. G. A. Rasnor, the third in order of birth of these children, was but a child when his parents moved from Eaton to the farm in Darke county and his schooling was completed in the schools of the latter county. As a young man he started farming on his own account and bought a farm of forty acres in Darke county on which he made his home after his marriage at the age of thirty years for eight years, or until 1887 when he sold that place and came to Auglaize county and for two years thereafter made his home on the farm of his wife's father, Curt Meyer. He then (in 1889) bought a farm of 100 acres on the river road a mile north of St. Marys, in Noble township, which he proceeded to develop and on which he made his home for nearly thirty years, or until 1917, when he retired from the farm and moved to St. Marys, where he has since made his home, he and his wife being very comfortably situated at 417 North Perry street, the house which Mr. Rasnor bought upon moving to town. Mr. and Mrs. Rasnor are members of the United Brethren church and are Democrats. For some time during his residence in Noble township, Mr. Rasnor served as director of his home school district. It was

in 1879 that G. A. Rasnor was united in marriage to Adaline Meyer, who was born in this county, daughter of Curt Meyer, who was a substantial pioneer farmer, and to this union seven children were born, all of whom are living, Oscar, Lydia M., Alonzo, Harry, Effie, Elmer and Irma, the latter of whom married Carl Behrn. Mr. Rasnor has been a practical farmer from the days of his young manhood and in that time has seen some amazing improvements made in methods of agriculture.

BERNARD NAGEL, who died at his home in Jackson township more than three years ago, was for years recognized as one of the representative farmers and landowners of that part of Auglaize county, and it is but proper there should here appear some modest tribute to the good memory he left in that community at his passing. Mr. Nagel was of European birth, born in Germany on January 13, 1845, and was but five years of age when he came to this country in 1850 with his parents, Bernard and Elizabeth (Hesselfeld) Nagel, also natives of Germany, who upon their arrival in America went to Kentucky. For several years they made their home in Kentucky and then came up here into Ohio with their family and settled on a pioneer farm northwest of Minster, in Jackson township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. On that pioneer farm the junior Bernard Nagel grew to manhood and early devoted himself to farming, a vocation he followed the rest of his life. After his marriage he started farming in a small way on his own account, but as his affairs prospered added to his land holdings until he became the owner of 360 acres, one of the best improved farms in his neighborhood, the place having three sets of buildings and all the equipment essential to a well-managed and profitably operated modern farm plant. On that place Mr. Nagel spent his last days, his death occurring there on December 24, 1919, he then being in the seventy-fifth year of his age, and his widow survives him. Bernard Nagel was twice married. By his first wife, Clara Holinda, he was the father of five children, John, William, Elizabeth, Anna and Rose, all of whom married save the latter. John Nagel has been twice married, his first wife—Lena Berger—having died, after which he married Josephine Steineman. William Nagel married Mary Berger and has four children, Clara, Irene, Margaret and Ludwig. Elizabeth Nagel married John Kaiser and has five children, Clara, Hilda, Matilda, Henrietta and Richard, and Anna Nagel married Fred Steineman and has four children, Elsie, Marion, Louise and Carl. Following the death of Mrs. Clara Nagel, mother of the above children, Bernard Nagel married Anna Schulte, who survives him, and to that union were born seven children, five of whom are living, Bernard, Charles, Ernest, Clarence and Marie, all of whom are married save the two latter. Bernard Nagel (III) married Matilda Lang



BERNARD NAGEL

and has four children, Virginia, Georgianna, Rosemary and Martin. Charles Nagel married Odelia Sweitermann and has three children, Lucile, Wilfred and Herbert, and Ernest Nagel married Mary Westerheide and has one child, a daughter, Rita Marie. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Nagel has continued to make her home on the farm northwest of Minster, where she is very comfortably situated. She is a member of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster, as was her husband, and their children were reared in that faith, Mr. Nagel long having served as a member of the board of trustees of the valuable property held by St. Augustine's parish. He was a Democrat and had rendered service as a member of the local school board. Mrs. Nagel was born in Jackson township, as were her parents, Henry and Elizabeth (Wente) Schulte, both members of pioneer families in the Minster neighborhood. Henry Schulte was the owner of an excellent farm of 120 acres west of the Nagel place. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, eight of whom are still living, Mrs. Nagel having three sisters, Mary, Elizabeth and Louise, and four brothers, Joseph, Charles, Bernard and John Schulte.

FRED ZIEGENBUSCH, former mayor of the village of Buckland, a former member of the village board, former treasurer of the village school board as well as treasurer of Logan township, is engaged in the blacksmith business at Buckland and also is the owner of a well kept farm in the immediate vicinity of that enterprising village. Mr. Ziegenbusch is a native son of Auglaize county, born at Wapakoneta, the county seat, March 1, 1857, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Merkle) Ziegenbusch, both of whom were of European birth, the former born in the former kingdom of Hanover and the latter in the kingdom of Wurtemburg. The late Henry Ziegenbusch came to the United States in 1850 and in the following year (1851) established himself in the blacksmith business at Wapakoneta, where he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, all of whom are living save two sons (Edward and August), the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Mary, Margaret, Anna and Emma, and five brothers, Charles, William, Edward (II), Joseph and Anton Ziegenbusch. Reared at Wapakoneta, where he was born, Fred Ziegenbusch completed his schooling in the high school there and then became engaged in the blacksmith shop with his father, there becoming thoroughly trained in the details of that business. He remained in the shop with his father until after he had attained his majority and then, in 1879, went to Dayton, Ohio, where he began working at his trade and where three or four years later he was married. He continued his residence at Dayton until 1886, when he returned to Auglaize county and opened a blacksmith shop at Buckland, where he established his home and where he ever since has been engaged

in business, a period of nearly forty years, during which time, by reason of the nature of his business, he has come to be one of the best known men in that part of the county. In addition to his blacksmith business Mr. Ziegenbusch also is the owner of a well improved farm of something more than eighty-one acres in the vicinity of Buckland, to the operations of which he has long given his attention and in the management of which he has done well. Mr. Ziegenbusch is a Democrat and has long been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in Logan township. He has served as mayor of the village of Buckland for three terms (1898-1901), has served several terms as member of the village council or town board and also has served as treasurer of Logan township and as treasurer of his school district. His wife is a member of the Christian church at Buckland. It was on December 20, 1883, that Fred Ziegenbusch was united in marriage to Anna Weeber, who was born in Germany and was twenty-two years old when she came to this country. She lived with her brother, Jacob Weeber, until her marriage to Mr. Ziegenbusch. To this union have been born four sons, Fred W., William, Edwin and Herman, all of whom are married. Fred W. Ziegenbusch married Carrie Heider and has three children, Anna, Margaret and Fred. William Ziegenbusch married Delzada Wheeler and has two children, Phyllis and Betty Jane. Edwin Ziegenbusch married Fern Jacquette and Herman Ziegenbusch married Mary Whetstone.

WILLIAM KUCK, SR., a well-known farmer of the New Knoxville neighborhood, now living practically retired, proprietor of the old Kuck farm just southwest of the village in section 30 of Washington township, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. Mr. Kuck was born in the year 1852 and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Bransman) Kuck, natives of Germany, who were among the pioneers of the New Knoxville community. The senior William Kuck had grown up to the trade of carpenter in his native country, and upon coming to this country and settling in this part of the state of Ohio, back in the days when work on the construction of the canal was beginning here, he secured work as a carpenter on the construction of the canal locks, and was thus engaged for several years, or until that big job of engineering was completed, thus earning the money with which he presently bought the farm of ninety-three acres just southwest of the village of New Knoxville, which was laid out in 1836. On that place he established his home and started in to make a farm out of it. His skill as a carpenter and builder kept in demand his services as a builder during the pioneer period, and much of the early building in and about New Knoxville was done by him, this including the old German Reformed church in the village, which in time gave way to the present handsome

edifice of that congregation at that place. He also set up a sorghum mill on his place, and the pioneers for miles thereabout brought to him their sugar cane to be converted into molasses, he thus establishing an industry there which has been maintained successfully to this day. On that farm the senior William Kuck spent his last days. His widow survived him for some years. Of the children born to them, six grew to maturity, those besides the subject of this sketch being Elizabeth, August, Sophia, Louis and Theodore. Another son, Herman, died when about fifteen years old. William Kuck, the second in order of birth of these children, was reared on that pioneer farm and received his schooling in the nearby New Knoxville schools. From the days of his boyhood he has given his attention to the affairs of the farm, and after his father's death operated the farm in his mother's behalf until her death, after which he bought the place and has since been operating it on his own account. To the original tract of a fraction more than ninety-three acres there he added an adjoining tract, and now has a well-improved farm of 108 acres and a well-equipped farm plant. The new buildings which he caused to be erected on the place are in keeping with all improvements there and are attractive and well kept. The old horse-power sorghum mill which his father established there long years ago has long been operated by mechanical power, for Mr. Kuck has kept the mill going during the sugar cane seasons and has one of the best sorghum plants in this part of the state. Though now practically retired from the active operations of the farm, Mr. Kuck keeps a pretty close supervisory eye on things and has not lost his interest in the general agricultural operations of the neighborhood or in the various other flourishing activities of that community. He is an earnest Republican, and he and his wife are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville, of which his parents were among the early promoters. Mr. Kuck married Caroline Katterheinrich, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this section of the state, and to this union seven children have been born, namely: Herman, who died in infancy, and Edward, Louis, Elizabeth, Bertha, Louise and Ella, three of whom are married. Edward Kuck married Cora Gleason and has one child, a son, Marion. Bertha Kuck married Arthur Wellman, and Ella Kuck married William Oelrich and has one child, a daughter, Catherine. Mrs. Caroline Kuck was born on a farm in the woods down in the neighboring county of Shelby and is a daughter of Herman W. and Elizabeth (Lutterbeck) Katterheinrich, natives of Germany, who came to this country after their marriage and proceeded on out into Ohio and settled on a woodland farm in Shelby county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Herman W. Katterheinrich and wife were the parents of ten children, five of whom are still living, Mrs. Kuck having three sisters, Sophia, Louise and Anna, and a brother, Louis Katterheinrich.

ANTON ALBERS, one of Jackson township's well known farmers and proprietor of an excellent farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster, was born on that farm and has lived there pretty much all his life, the exception being a short period during the years of his young manhood when he was farming in the McCartyville neighborhood in the neighboring county of Shelby. Mr. Albers was born on August 16, 1866, and is a son of Anton and Bernardine (Fortman) Albers, both of whom were members of pioneer families in this section of the state. The senior Anton Albers grew to manhood on the farm on which his son Anton is now living and was the son of Bernard Albers and wife who had come to this country from Germany, Bernard Albers entering from the Government the farm on which his grandson now lives. His son, Anton, succeeded to that place and after his marriage established his home there in the north half of section 29 of Jackson township, about two miles north and west of Minster, and came to be the owner of 150 acres of land. On this place he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1878. His widow long survived him. They were the parents of seven children, of whom the subject of this sketch was the sixth in order of birth, the others being Bernard (deceased), Elizabeth (deceased), Catherine (deceased), Joseph and Josephine. By a previous marriage, to Theresa Huebe, Anton Albers was the father of three children, Frank, Bernadine and Mary, the latter of whom—Mrs. John Blacke of Minster—alone survives. Reared on the farm which he owns, the junior Anton Albers received his schooling in the "Egypt" school and was early trained in the ways of practical farming. His father died when he was twelve years of age and he remained on the farm, a valuable aid to his mother in the labors of improving and developing the same, until he was twenty-eight years of age, when he went down into Shelby county and was for a year engaged in farming in the McCartyville neighborhood there. He then returned to the old home place and bought the same, established his home there and has ever since made that his place of residence. Mr. Albers has a well improved farm of 150 acres and is doing well in his operations. He is a Republican and has served the public as school director in his district. He and his family are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Egypt and he has served during several terms as trustee of the church and is a member of the Catholic Welfare Society of Ohio and of the St. Joseph's Society. Mr. Albers has been twice married. By his first wife, Josephine Berning, he was the father of four children, John, Henry and two who died in childhood. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Albers married Mrs. Theresa (Kothmann) Rosengarten, daughter of George and Josephine (Freiderich) Kothmann, of Mercer county, and widow of John Rosengarten, and

to this union two children have been born, Christina and Andrew. By her first marriage Mrs. Albers is the mother of two children, Clara and Francis. Mrs. Albers was born in Mercer county, where her parents, both of whom were born in the Minster neighborhood, had located after their marriage. Her father, George Kothmann, was a son of Herman Kothmann and wife, who had located in the Minster neighborhood upon coming here from Germany and reared their family here. George Kothmann and wife were the parents of nine children, those besides Mrs. Albers (the sixth in order of birth) being Louis, Henry (deceased), Bernard, August, Elizabeth, Anthony, Josephine and Mary (deceased).

BERNARD THIEMAN, a former trustee of Jackson township and one of the best known farmers and landowners of that part of Auglaize county, has been a resident of that section all his life, a period of nearly eighty years and has thus seen that region develop from its primitive state of woodland swamp and morass to its present highly cultivated and richly improved condition. When he was born that part of the present Auglaize county was still included within the confines of Mercer county and what is now Jackson township was the southern half of the original German township, for Jackson township was not set off as a separate civil township until the spring of 1859. When he was born the canal had not yet been opened for traffic and he thus has been a witness to and a participant in all the amazing development that has marked this region since that day. He has seen all this and been a part of it, doing well his share in this development, and he has many an interesting tale to tell of the doings during the pioneer period. Mr. Thieman was born on a pioneer farm in the near vicinity of his present home in Jackson township on January 15, 1844, and is a son of Frank and Rebecca (Wuesel) Thieman, both of European birth, the former born in the grand duchy of Oldenburg and the latter in the kingdom of Hanover. Frank Thieman came to America in the days of his young manhood and located at Cincinnati, where not long afterward he married Rebecca Wuesel, who had come to this country with her parents not long before, the family settling at Cincinnati. Shortly after their marriage Frank Thieman and his wife came up into this part of Ohio to put in their lot with the Stallo Town "colonists", who not long before had effected a settlement at what now is Minster and to make a new home in the then wilderness. Work on the construction of the canal had been begun about that time and for a time after coming here he worked on that construction, in the meantime entering from the Government a "forty" about two miles northwest of Minster and about the same distance west of the canal—the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 21 of what then was German township, just at the north line of

what in 1859 came to be Jackson township—where he established his home. He built a log cabin there, cleared the place, drained it as effectually as his outlet would permit and pretty soon had a going farm. As his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of 160 acres and was getting his farm in good shape when death overtook him at the age of fifty-five years, in 1855. His widow survived him for some years. They had five children, three sons, Henry, Frank and Bernard Thieman, and two daughters, Wilhelmina and Mary, the Thieman connection in the present generation thus being a considerable one. Bernard Thieman was reared on that pioneer farm and his schooling was received in the "Egypt" school, to reach which he more often than not literally had to wallow through the mud of the woodland morass. He was but eleven years of age when his father died and thus, from boyhood, he had to keep up his part in the labors of improving and developing the home place, which was maintained under his mother's direction, he and his brother Frank and sister Wilhelmina later coming into charge. Before his marriage Bernard Thieman bought a tract of 100 acres in the southeast quarter of section 21 of Jackson township, about half a mile southwest of the Thieman home place, and after his marriage established his home on that place and has ever since resided there. It was not long before he found his affairs progressing profitably and he presently bought an adjacent tract, to which he since has added from time to time until now he is the owner of 410 acres of splendid land, all in Jackson township, his farm being well improved and profitably cultivated. Of late years, of course, Mr. Thieman has relaxed somewhat from the more arduous labors of the farm, but he still keeps a pretty close supervisory eye on the direction of affairs and has ever kept pace with the advancement of methods in agriculture. He is a Republican of "independent" leanings and has served the public as supervisor of roads in his district and also for some time as a member of the board of township trustees. Bernard Thieman married Mary Nagel, a daughter of Bernard Nagel, a substantial pioneer farmer whose farm in section 21 adjoined his on the north, and to this union have been born seven children, namely: Louis, who died in infancy; William, who married Frances Sherman and has three children, Bernard, Florence and Mildred; Joseph, who married Emily Woehrmyer and has two children, Bernedetta and Dorothy; George, who married Olive Kleinhenz and has two children, Roger and Edna; Charles, a veteran of the World war with a record of nine months overseas service, trained at Camp Jackson and rendering service as a private in the 111th Field Artillery with the 29th Division, who is unmarried and living on the home place; Josephine, who married John Feltman and has two children, Henry and Bernedine, and

Cecelia, who married Frank Severin and has four children, Urban, Marie, Elsie and Wilfred. The Thiemans have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster. They are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster and Mr. Thieman is a member of many years standing of the St. Augustine's Society of that parish.

J. H. HEITKAMP, a member of the pioneer Heitkamp family in the northwestern part of Jackson township and the owner there of a fine farm of 200 acres, where he makes his home, rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster, was born in that part of the county and has lived there all his life. Mr. Heitkamp was born on March 18, 1867, and is a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Goeke) Heitkamp, the latter of whom was born in the neighboring county of Mercer. Joseph Heitkamp was born in what is now Jackson township, Auglaize county, but which then was included in the original bounds of German township, at that time a part of Mercer county, and was a son of Henry Heitkamp, who had settled at Minster upon coming to this country from Germany and had for some time thereafter been employed in the work of constructing the canal, following his trade as a carpenter in that connection. He later bought a farm of eighty acres two miles or more north and west of Minster and established his home there, this having been the beginning of the extensive Hietkamp agricultural interests which later were developed in that section of the county. Henry Heitkamp and wife had six children, of whom Joseph Heitkamp, father of the subject of this sketch, was the second in order of birth. Joseph Heitkamp became the owner of 200 acres of land in Jackson township and was accounted one of the substantial farmers of the neighborhood in which he lived. He and his wife had eight children, those besides the subject of this sketch (the third in order of birth) being Mary, Catherine, Anthony, Bernard, John, Joseph and Elizabeth. Reared on the home farm in the northwestern part of the township, J. H. Heitkamp received his schooling at "Egypt" and remained on the farm, an aid to his father, until his marriage, when he bought an "eighty," a part of the place on which he is now living, in the neighborhood of the old home, and has since resided there. Mr. Heitkamp made a good farm out of his original eighty and has added to that until now he is the owner of a well improved farm of 200 acres. He has a comfortable home and an admirable farm plant and is doing well in his operations. J. H. Heitkamp married Caroline Mescher, daughter of Henry Mescher, and to this union eight children have been born, Clemens, Cecelia, Leo, Roman, Julius, Matilda, Stella and Urban, four of whom are married. Clemens Heitkamp married Matilda Neikamp and has five children, Hugo, Norbert, Kenneth, Grace and Dorothy. Cecelia Heitkamp married Benja-

min Vehorn and has four children, Rozella, Clarence, Elvira and Wilbert. Roman Heitkamp married Rozella Schemel and Matilda Heitkamp married Henry Thobe and has one child, a son, Virgil. The Heitkamps are members of St. John's Catholic church at Maria Stein and Mr. Heitkamp was for some time one of the trustees of the property held by that parish. In his political views he is "independent" and he has rendered public service as a director in his school district.

CALVIN H. SIBERT, a well-known farmer and landowner of Auglaize county, now living retired at Uniopolis, where he has made his home for the past twenty years and more, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since he was three years of age, a period of more than seventy years. Mr. Sibert was born on the Piqua plains, in Miami county, on January 19, 1847, and is a son of Samuel and Henrietta (Shannahan) Sibert, who settled in Auglaize county in 1850 and here spent the remainder of their lives. Samuel Sibert was a Virginian by birth, who had come to Ohio with his parents in his youth and after his marriage had settled in Miami county, where he remained until 1850, when he came up into Auglaize county with his family and established his home on an eighty-acre tract of woodland in Pusheta township. Not long afterward he sold that place and then rented a farm in the immediate vicinity of Wapakoneta, but not long afterward bought a farm of 119 acres just west of town, the site now occupied by the fair ground, and there spent his last days, his death occurring on September 9, 1865, and his widow long survived him. They were the parents of seven children, all of whom are still living save one daughter, Elizabeth, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mary and Helen, and three brothers, Otho, Samuel and George Sibert. As noted above, Calvin H. Sibert was three years of age when he came to this county with his parents, in 1850. He was seventeen years of age when his father died, and he remained with his mother, assisting in the labors of the home farm, she having disposed of her interests in the present fair ground site and bought another eighty in Duchouquet township, until after his marriage, at the age of twenty-five, when he bought that eighty and began farming on his own account. As he prospered in his operations, Mr. Sibert bought more land, until he became the owner of a fine farm of 447 acres, and there he continued farming until his retirement in 1900 and removal to Uniopolis, where he has since made his home. Mr. Sibert is a Democrat, and he and his wife are members of the Christian church. It was on May 23, 1872, that Calvin H. Sibert was united in marriage to Catherine H. Bitler, daughter and only child of Henry and Margaret Ann (Parlett) Bitler, both members of old families in this county, and to this union

CALVIN H. SIBERT AND WIFE

three children have been born, Ira, Ida and Samuel, all of whom are married. Ira Sibert married Emma Keifer and has one child, a son, Richard. Ida Sibert married Jerome Orr and has two children, Flossie and Calvin, and Samuel Sibert married Dora Focht and has four children, Bonnie, Calvin, Lyman and Minard. Mrs. Catherine H. Sibert was born at St. Johns, this county, her parents having been among the pioneers of that part of the county. Her father, Henry Bitler, was a Pennsylvanian by birth, and her mother was a Virginian. Henry Bitler died of cholera in July, 1851, during the prevalence of the scourge of that dread disease that swept through this region at that period.

TOBIAS NUSS, one of the well known farmers of the Wapakoneta neighborhood, proprietor of a well improved farm a mile north of the river, northwest of town, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. Mr. Nuss was born on March 27, 1861, and is the son and only child of Michael and Barbara Nuss, both of whom were born in Germany and whose last days were spent on that farm, well known residents of that neighborhood in their generation. The late Michael Nuss came to this country from Germany as a young man, about 1857, and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating in Pusheta township, this county, where he presently was married. Not long afterward, in 1860, he bought a tract of forty-five acres adjoining the Duchouquet Reserve on the north, in the southwest quarter of section 19 of Duchouquet township, a mile or more northwest of Wapakoneta, and on that uncleared timber tract established his home and started in to make a farm out of the place. When he got that tract cleared he bought an adjoining "forty," and as he developed that farm added to his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of 117 acres and was accounted one of the substantial men of that neighborhood. On that place he and his wife spent their last days, her death occurring in 1899 and his in 1909. Reared on the home farm, Tobias Nuss received his schooling in St. Joseph's parish school at Wapakoneta, for his parents were faithful Catholics, and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the labors of developing and improving the farm. After his marriage he continued to make his home there, he and his father carrying on their farming operations in agreeable association, and after his father's death he took over the farm and has continued to make his home there. The place is improved in admirable fashion and Mr. Nuss has done well in his operations. He is a Democrat and is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church. For six years he served as pike superintendent for Duchouquet township. For the past fifteen years Mr. Nuss has relaxed somewhat from the active labors of the farm and has given a good bit of his attention to pump work, making a specialty of the repair of water

pumps and his services in that connection have come to be in wide demand. Tobias Nuss married Katherine Drexler, daughter of Tobias Drexler, a neighboring landowner in section 19 of Duchouquet township, and to that union five children were born, Andrew, Theresa, Frederick, Henry and Louise, all of whom are married save Theresa and Henry. The mother of these children died on November 19, 1915. Andrew Nuss married Anna Knuth and has three children, Andrew, Clement and Clara. Frederick Nuss married Erma L. Miller and has one child, a daughter, Emily, and Louise Nuss married Willis W. Wyant and has one child, a daughter, Laverne. The Nuss home is situated on rural mail route No. 3 out of Wapakoneta.

JOHN R. CORDREY, postmaster at New Hampshire, justice of the peace in and for Goshen township and secretary-treasurer of the school board of that township, one of the best known men in Auglaize county, where he has lived since the days of his boyhood, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life. Mr. Cordrey was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, January 30, 1855, and is a son of Riley and Mary (Smetts) Cordrey, both also natives of Ohio, whose last days were spent in Auglaize county. It was in 1867 that Riley Cordrey, a veteran of the Civil war, disposed of his interests in Tuscarawas county and came with his family to Auglaize county, the newer lands over here proving a lure which he thought well to heed. He bought a tract of 100 acres of unimproved land in the eastern part of Goshen township, Lot 19 of Warrant 12276 of the Virginia military lands tract, and there established his home, later buying an adjoining tract of 110 acres, this giving him a farm of 270 acres, and he thus presently became recognized as one of the leading farmers and influential citizens of that part of the county. It is recalled that Riley Cordrey was one of the first landowners in that section who began to push the movement for the reclamation of the waste lands in that part of the county and that it largely was due to his personal interest in this matter and his aggressive action that the first proper system of drainage was adopted and carried through, so that he served his generation well. On that place he and his wife spent their last days, both dying in the same year, her death occurring on May 10, 1889, and his, October 30 of that year. They were the parents of nine children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Alice, Arminta, Olive and Irena, and a brother, N. Elsworth Cordrey. The deceased members of this family were Cynthia, Alvarata and one who died in infancy. John R. Cordrey was twelve years of age when he came here with his parents in 1867 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Goshen township, completing his schooling in the school house of district No. 1, there on the Belle Center pike (now the paved high-

way), just off the corner of his father's farm. Even in his youth he was a helpful factor in the labors of improving and developing the home place and when he had attained his majority his father gave him a partnership interest in the farm. When twenty-four years of age he married and about three years later moved over into Hardin county and was there engaged in farming for four years, at the end of which time he moved back into Auglaize county and bought a farm of seventy acres in Goshen township and there established his home, at the same time renting an adjoining tract of 200 acres and was thus engaged in farming until in 1905, when he suffered a sunstroke and was warned to give up farming forever, his physical condition after this disability being such as to preclude the necessary exertions attendant on practical farming. Upon leaving the farm Mr. Cordrey moved into the pleasant village of New Hampshire and has since made his home there. It was during the first Roosevelt administration that Mr. Cordrey was appointed postmaster at New Hampshire and he ever since has occupied that position. On January 20, 1905, he was appointed a state examiner for one of the state boards and for more than five years occupied that position. Mr. Cordrey's first civil position was that of constable of Goshen township, to which office he was elected when twenty-one years of age. In 1902 he was elected township treasurer and for some years filled that position. For some years past he has been occupying the position of justice of the peace in and for Goshen township and he also is the secretary and treasurer of the township school board, a position to which his activities have done much for the promotion of the interests of the schools of his home township and for the consolidated school at New Hampshire. For years he has been looked upon as one of the leaders of the Republican party in this county. It was on December 28, 1879, that John R. Cordrey was united in marriage to Sarah J. Cummins, also of Goshen township, and to this union two sons have been born, Bernard A. and Harry E. Cordrey, the latter of whom, now living at Plain Center, Ohio, married Faith B. Bechtel and has one child, a son, Harry E., Jr. Bernard A. Cordrey married Elizabeth Bogart and is now the proprietor of the general store at New Hampshire. Mr. and Mrs. Cordrey are active members of the Baptist church at New Hampshire and Mr. Cordrey is one of the deacons of that congregation. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Waynesfield and of the local tent of the Knights of the Maccabees at New Hampshire. Mrs. Cordrey was born in the neighboring county of Logan, daughter of Joseph and Anna (Vandevanter) Cummins, who about the year 1870 moved from that county with their family over into Auglaize county and settled on a farm in Goshen township, where Mrs. Cordrey grew to womanhood and was married. Joseph Cummins and wife had five children, three of whom are still living, Mrs. Cordrey having a sister, Mary, and a brother, John Cummins.

JACOB W. LOGAN, a former member of the board of county commissioners for Auglaize county, a former treasurer of Union township and a well known mill man now living retired at Uniopolis, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of this section of Ohio and has lived hereabout all his life, a period of more than seventy-five years. Mr. Logan was born in the neighboring county of Allen on October 25, 1847, and is a son of James and Christina (Weaver) Logan, who later became residents of Auglaize county, where their last days were spent. James Logan was born in Champaign county, this state, and was eighteen years of age when in 1833 he came up here with his parents, the family settling on a woodland farm in Allen county. That was fifteen years before the erection of Auglaize county, a large part of which at that time was included in Allen county. After his marriage James Logan continued to make his home in Allen county until in 1865, when he came down over the line into this county and bought a farm of eighty acres in Union township, where he established his home and spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, all of whom grew to maturity save two and five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Sarah and Rose, and two brothers, James and Josiah M. Logan. Jacob W. Logan was seventeen years of age when the family located in Union township and he grew to manhood there, helping his father improve and develop the home farm. He married when twenty-one years of age and continued on the farm until in 1880, when he became engaged in the saw mill business at Uniopolis. For ten years, or until the big timber was pretty well gotten out of the way in that vicinity, Mr. Logan carried on his saw mill and then he erected a flour mill in the village and carried on with that enterprise for eight years, at the end of which time he sold the mill and moved to Wapakoneta. Two years later he resumed milling and for two years afterward operated a saw mill in Logan county, after which he returned to Uniopolis, where he has since resided, now living practically retired. Mr. Logan is a Democrat and has rendered public service in several important capacities. In 1890 he was elected to represent his district on the board of county commissioners and by re-election served in this office for six years (1891-97), thus having been a member of the board under whose direction the present court house was erected. He also served for five years as treasurer of Union township and has likewise served as assessor for the village of Uniopolis. He is a member of the Masonic lodge at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of the Church of Christ at Uniopolis. On March 16, 1869, Jacob W. Logan was united in marriage to Sarah E. Carter, a member of one of the old families of Union township, and to this union thirteen children were born, six of whom—Melville, Blanche,

Emma, Grover, Callie and Veema—are deceased, the survivors being Floy, Catherine, Sylvia, Charles, Jacob, Vincent H. and Von W., all of whom are married. The late Melville Logan married Melissa Gessler and had two daughters, Mrs. Mamie Roberts and Mrs. Eva McGuff. Floy Logan married Charles Beer and has four children, Ward, Donald, Marjorie and Harold, the first named of whom married Ruth Sailor and has two sons, Sailor and Donald. Catherine Logan married V. C. Burden and has one child, a son, Ferrell. Sylvia Logan married Otto Burden and has five children, Lela, Gerald, Ruth, Mary and Betty Jane. Von W. Logan married Mattie Armstrong and has five children, Hubert, Dorothy, Roger, Elaine and Von. Charles Logan has been twice married and by his first wife, Anna Hartzog, now deceased, has two children, Ruby and Roger. Jacob Logan married Mary Camelmire and has two children, Robert V. and Jacob. Vincent H. Logan married Clara Kuntz, of Wapakoneta.

FRANK L. SPRINGER, president of the board of trustees for Moulton township and a well known and substantial farmer and landowner of that township, is a member of one of the old families of Auglaize county and has resided here all his life, a resident of Moulton township for more than twenty years. Mr. Springer was born on a farm in Logan township on March 5, 1878, and is a son of Jacob L. and Alice (Wagoner) Springer, the latter of whom was born in the neighboring county of Shelby but was a resident of Auglaize county at the time of her marriage, her parents having moved up here years ago. The late Joseph L. Springer was born in Logan township, a member of one of the pioneer families there, and all his life was spent there. He had a well kept farm of eighty acres. To him and his wife were born three children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mrs. Myrtle Sillin and Mrs. Joyce Sillin. Frank Springer and his sister Joyce received their schooling in Logan township and the elder sister, Myrtle, received her schooling at Findlay, where during her girlhood she resided with her grandparents. Reared on the home farm in Logan township, Frank L. Springer remained at home, helpful in the labors of developing and improving the farm, until his marriage at the age of twenty-one, after which he began farming for himself, renting from his mother-in-law the old Crow farm along the river in section 23 of Moulton township and there continued thus engaged until in 1918, when he bought his present farm of 220 acres in that same township and has since resided there. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Springer has made some notable improvements on the farm, including a new house and barn, and has one of the best equipped farm plants in that neighborhood. In addition to his general farming Mr. Springer gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding out about 200 hogs and quite a

bunch of cattle every year, and is doing well. Mr. Springer has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and is the present president of the board of township trustees of Moulton township, serving his second term on the board. He is a member of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are members of the Christian church at Buckland. It was on January 7, 1900, that Frank L. Springer was united in marriage to Hamie Crow, of Moulton township, and to this union two sons have been born, namely: Virgil L. Springer, who is now manager of the Farmers Exchange grain elevator at Buckland, and Todd Lincoln Springer, who is at home assisting his father on the farm. The Springers have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 7 out of Wapakoneta. Mrs. Springer was born in Moulton township and is a daughter of Oran and Mary (Musser) Crow, the latter of whom is still living, now making her home at Wapakoneta. Both the Crows and the Mussers are old families in Auglaize county and further reference to these families is made elsewhere in this work.

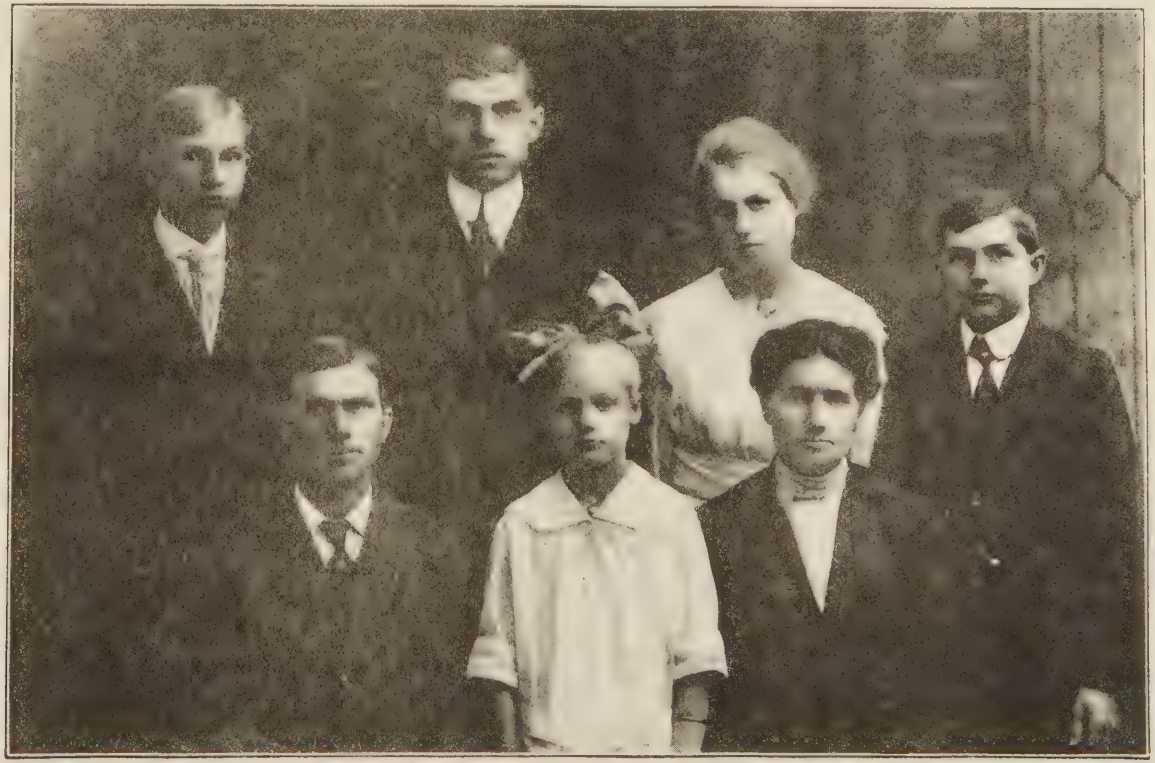
DAVID PRESAR, one of Pusheta township's well known and progressive farmers and landowners, was born in Pusheta township on March 22, 1881, and is a son of Charles and Anna (Hoehammer) Presar, who were the parents of eleven children, all of whom are living save one, Louise, who died at the age of twelve years, the others (besides the subject of this sketch, the seventh in order of birth) being Mary, Christina, Charles, George, Callie, William, Henry, Bertha and Cora. The late Charles Presar, father of these children and formerly one of the most substantial landowners in Pusheta township, was born at Miamisburg, Ohio, and was but an infant, about one year old, when his parents came to Auglaize county with their family and settled in Pusheta township, where he grew to manhood and where after his marriage he established his home and spent the remainder of his life. He was a good farmer and manager and came to be the owner of 740 acres of land in this county. David Presar grew up on the home farm in the northwestern part of Pusheta township, about a mile southwest of Wapakoneta, and was thus early trained in the ways of practical farming. He received his schooling in the Lenox school (district No. 6) and as a young man continued to make his home on the home farm, helpful in the labors of developing and improving the same, and thus continued until his marriage at the age of twenty-five years, when he bought the farm chattels on the home place and started in farming on his own account, renting the fields. That was in 1906. In the following year his father made a division of his lands among his children and in this division David Presar came into 166 acres in Pusheta township. For seven years he continued to farm that place and then he bought the place on which he is now living, on rural

mail route No. 2 out of Wapakoneta, and has since resided there. This place is a well improved farm of ninety acres and on it Mr. Presar has a well equipped farm plant. He owns 256 acres, but rents out the old farm of 166 acres, confining his personal attention to the operations on the place on which he is living. In addition to his general farming Mr. Presar gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. It was on October 23, 1906, that David Presar was united in marriage to Caroline Lunz, also a member of one of the old families of that neighborhood, and to this union four children have been born, Florence, Emil, Harold and Melvin, all of whom are now in school save little Melvin. Mrs. Presar also was born in Pusheta township, where she was reared and where she received her schooling. She is a daughter of Conrad and Frances (Kreitzer) Lunz, the former a substantial farmer and landowner of Pusheta township, at one time the owner of 120 acres there, who were the parents of six children, all of whom are living, Mrs. Presar having two sisters, Lena and Emma, and three brothers, August, Martin and Louis Lunz. The Presars are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at Wapakoneta. Mr. Presar is a good farmer and keeps abreast of modern developments in agricultural methods, his farm being improved in up-to-date fashion.

JACOB A. WEBER, a former trustee of Moulton township, former ditch supervisor, a former school director and proprietor of a farm on rural mail route No. 7 out of Wapakoneta, is a European by birth but has been a resident of this country and of Auglaize county since he was twenty-six years of age, a period of more than forty-five years. Mr. Weber was born in the Province of Wittenberg in Prussian Saxony, May 24, 1851, and is a son of Jacob and Anna (Bender) Weber. He was reared and schooled in his home country and remained there until he was twenty-six years of age, when (in 1877) he came to the United States, landing at Philadelphia. His first employment in this country was as a farm hand on the tract of a Jewish hospital in the suburbs of Philadelphia, and he was employed there for five months and ten days, at the end of which time, in the fall of 1877, he came to Ohio and through the solicitation of some old country friends who had become residents of this county settled in Auglaize county, where he ever since has resided. Upon locating here Mr. Weber was variously employed for three or four years, or until his marriage, after which he began farming on his own account, renting a farm in Union township. For eighteen years he continued farming as a renter and then in 1900 he bought the farm of ninety-one acres on which he is now living in Moulton township and has since made his home there. Despite the fact that some time ago Mr. Weber passed the traditional three-score-and-ten stage of life he continues active in his farm operations

and maintains a hearty interest in local affairs. He is a Democrat and has for years taken an interested part in local civic affairs. For four years he served as a trustee of Moulton township and he also served for eleven years as a ditch supervisor and for eight years as a school director. It was on February 2, 1882, that Jacob A. Weber was united in marriage to Flora E. Green, of Uniopolis, and to this union have been born seven children, Joseph F., John H., Fred C., Flora E., Mary M., Lillie L. and Ida, all of whom are living and all married save Lillie L. Weber, who is a trained nurse. Mrs. Weber was born in Franklin county, Ohio, daughter of Henry and Henrietta Green, and was eight years of age when her parents moved with their family to this county and located at Uniopolis, where she was reared and finished her schooling.

HENRY C. SCHROER, one of the well-known farmers of Washington township and a substantial landowner living a mile north of the pleasant village of New Knoxville, was born on the place on which he is now living and has lived there all his life, a period of more than fifty years. Mr. Schroer was born on February 26, 1872, and is a son of Herman and Sophia (Wierwille) Schroer, natives of Germany, who had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth and had become residents of this section of Ohio, both the Schroers and the Wierwilles having been early settlers in the New Knoxville neighborhood. The late Herman Schroer was a well-grown lad when he came here with his parents back in pioneer days and he helped to develop the woodland farm on which his father had settled there north of New Knoxville, in the southwest quarter of section 17 of Washington township, in the fertile inner curve of the valley of Clear creek. After his marriage he established his home on that place and became the owner of a farm of 245 acres, which he was developing in admirable fashion when death interrupted his labors in 1882. His widow kept the farm going and long survived him. They were the parents of eleven children, all of whom are still living save two, the subject of this sketch having seven sisters, Eliza, Sophia, Fredericka, Anna, Minnie, Sarah and Flora, and a brother, William Schroer, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Henry C. Schroer was but ten years of age when his father died, and he thus early began to assume mature responsibilities in connection with the operation of the home farm, which he and his elder brother carried on in their mother's behalf. He received his schooling in the local schools, and after his marriage took over that portion of the old home place on which he is now living, established his home there and has continued to reside on that place, now the proprietor of a fine farm of 100 acres, which he has improved in excellent shape, and on which he has a well-equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farm-



HENRY C. SCHROER AND FAMILY

ing Mr. Schroer has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, and is doing well. Henry C. Schroer married Elizabeth Duhme, who was born in Germany, and who came here in the days of her girlhood with her parents, Henry and Eliza (Kuhlman) Duhme, of whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume, and to this union five children have been born, Gustave, Clara, Ewald, Reuben and Taletha, the two elder of whom are married. Gustave Schroer married Selma Schroerluke and has one child, a daughter, Mildred, and Clara Schroer married Ernst Schultz and has one child, a son, Willis. Ewald Schroer is his father's mainstay on the farm, and Reuben Schroer is now a student in the Mission House of the Reformed church at Cheboygan, with a view to becoming a clergyman. The Schroers are active members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville, and for two years Mr. Schroer served the congregation of that church as a deacon. In his political leanings he is enrolled among the growing number of "independents" in this section of Ohio, and for two terms at different times has served as school director. The Schroer home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, and the latchstring is ever out to the family's many friends.

CLAUDE C. EMERSON, a former justice of the peace in and for Union township and proprietor of a well kept farm in the St. Johns neighborhood, was born in Union township on November 20, 1880, and is a son of Levi and Ida (Giberson) Emerson, who are now residing in the vicinity of Lima. Levi Emerson also was born in Union township and is a son of Adam and Jane Emerson, who had come here from Virginia in pioneer days and had established their home on a farm just north of St. Johns, where they spent the remainder of their lives, useful and influential pioneers of that neighborhood. Levi Emerson grew up on that farm and after his marriage settled on a farm of eighty acres which he bought in that same township. To this he later added an adjoining tract of twenty acres and on that 100-acre farm continued farming until in 1917, in which year he moved to the farm near Lima, where he and his wife are now living. To them were born four children, all of whom are living save one daughter, Jennie, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Minnie, and a brother, Ferd Emerson. Reared on the home farm in the vicinity of St. Johns, Claude C. Emerson received his schooling in the village schools and remained at home until his marriage when twenty-one years of age, when he began farming for himself as a renter. For several years he continued thus engaged and then he bought the farm of 100 acres on which he is now living and has since resided there. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Emerson has made numerous improvements on the same and now has an excellent farm plant, his operations being carried

on in accordance with up-to-date methods. Mr. Emerson is a Republican, a member of the township Republican central committee, and has rendered local public service as a justice of the peace in and for his home township. He is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at St. Johns and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. It was on April 10, 1902, that Claude C. Emerson was united in marriage to Audrey Brackney, who also was born in this county, daughter of Reuben and Samantha Jane (Lusk) Brackney, and to this union have been born three children, Oris, Evelyn and William. Evelyn Emerson married Luther Burden and is now living at Wapakoneta. The Emersons have a very pleasant home in the St. Johns neighborhood.

J. M. GUY CAMPBELL, a former member of the board of county commissioners for Auglaize county and one of the best known farmers of Union township, was born on the farm on which he is now living, along Wolf creek about three miles east of St. Johns, and has lived there all his life. Mr. Campbell was born on November 1, 1878, and is a son of George and Sarah A. (Chiles) Campbell, the latter of whom, a member of one of the pioneer families of that neighborhood, is still living on the home farm, which she owns. The late George Campbell was born in Virginia on May 5, 1822, and was but an infant when his parents moved to Ohio, the family settling in Franklin county. He was left an orphan in his youth and when eighteen years of age he came up into this part of the state and secured employment in farm development work and in the timber projects that then were being worked out here, centering his activities in and about St. Johns. That was in 1840, eight years before the erection of Auglaize county, and he thus may be regarded as one of the pioneers of this region. After his marriage George Campbell returned to Franklin county for a few years and for some time gave his attention to cattle buying and thus became widely known hereabout. He presently bought a farm of 200 acres along Wolf creek in the south half of section 35 of Union township, facing the pike, and there established his home and spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on May 4, 1884, he then being one day under sixty-two years of age. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Campbell has retained possession of the farm and still makes her home there, the operations of the place being carried on by her son Guy. To George and Sarah A. (Chiles) Campbell were born six children, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Zelia, and a brother, Dr. Theodore Campbell. Reared on the farm on which he is now living, J. M. Guy Campbell received his early schooling in the neighborhood school (district No. 7) and then took a course in the Wapakoneta high school. He was but six

years of age when his father died and he thus early began to assume mature responsibilities in connection with the operation of the home farm. He married in his twentieth year and established his home on the home place, taking charge of operations there in his mother's behalf, and has so continued during the years since, keeping the farm up to a high standard of cultivation, and has long been regarded as one of the progressive and wideawake farmers of that section of the county. Mr. Campbell is a Democrat and has ever taken an active interest in local political affairs. In 1918 he was elected to represent his district on the board of county commissioners and served on that board during the succeeding term. He also has served for two terms as a trustee of Union township and as a member of the local school board and in all this public service has given his most thoughtful attention to the affairs in hand. In his fraternal relations Mr. Campbell is affiliated with the Masonic lodge at Waynesfield, with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (all branches) at St. Johns and with the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta, while he and his family are connected with the Methodist Episcopal church at St. Johns. It was on March 14, 1898, that Guy Campbell was united in marriage to Gertrude Lusk, also a member of one of the old families of this county, daughter of W. L. and Frances A. (Castle) Lusk, of Clay township, and to this union seven children have been born, Burton, Helen, Eloise, Huldah, Ilo, Winnifred and James, the three first named of whom are married. Burton Campbell married Mary Pursell and has one child, a daughter, Ruth. Helen Campbell married Emil Ambos, of St. Johns, and Eloise Campbell married Ralph Emerson. The Campbell home is very pleasantly situated along the paved highway, rural mail route No. 1 out of Wapakoneta, and has ever been locally noted for its genial hospitality. This mail route was the first one established in this county upon the establishment of free rural mail delivery hereabout and Mr. Campbell was one of the active promoters of the same.

CLIFFORD O. BLAIR, official court reporter for Auglaize county and one of the best known men in the county, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county, with his home home at Wapakoneta, for the past twenty years. Mr. Blair was born on a farm in Auglaize township in the neighboring county of Allen on October 2, 1880, and is a son of W. F. and Rosetta (Craig) Blair, the latter a daughter of William H. Craig. The Blairs are of an old and distinguished American colonial family, the founder of which in this country was no less a personage than James J. Blair, a noted Scottish divine in the time of Charles II, who in 1685 was sent as a missionary to Virginia, where in 1693 he founded William and Mary College and was ap-

pointed its first president. He died in 1743. The continuing influence of this ancient institution of learning, next to Harvard the oldest college in the United States, may be reckoned by the fact that no fewer than three Presidents of the United States (Jefferson, Monroe and Tyler), four justices of the United States Supreme Court, twenty-seven Governors of states, twenty-nine United States senators, fifty-eight congressmen, twenty-two justices of the Supreme Court of Virginia, thirteen Cabinet officers, four speakers of the United States House of Representatives, nineteen ambassadors and ministers of this Government and eleven generals of the army received their schooling in this institution. John Blair Sr., born in 1689, a member of this family, was three times acting governor of the colony of Virginia and his old home at Williamsburg is being preserved as one of the most distinctive landmarks of colonial days. His son, John Blair Jr., was a member of the convention which drafted the Constitution of the United States and was a justice of the United States Supreme Court under appointment of George Washington. The late W. F. Blair was born in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, October 23, 1849, and was a son of Dr. Brice and Rebecca (Perdew) Blair, the former of whom was born in Bedford county, Pennsylvania, January 22, 1813, a son of Brice Blair, a substantial citizen of that county. Dr. Brice Blair was the father of fourteen children, all of whom now are deceased save one daughter, Mrs. Harry Heffner. In 1879 W. F. Blair married Rosetta Craig and established his home on a farm in Auglaize township, Allen county, where he remained until 1892, when he was appointed superintendent of the Allen County Childrens Home, a position he occupied for six years. To him and his wife were born five children, all of whom are living save one son, L. C. Blair, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mrs. H. F. Neufer, of Lima, Ohio, and Mrs. J. H. Meyer, of Wapakoneta, and a brother, Harry A. Blair, of Jackson township, Allen county. Clifford O. Blair was twelve years of age when his parents moved from the farm in Auglaize township, Allen county, to take charge of the Allen County Children's Home and he was not yet eighteen when in 1898 he was graduated from the Lima Business College, where he had specialized in stenography, with particular reference to court work, and immediately following his graduation he was appointed official court stenographer for the adjoining county of Mercer. Mr. Blair occupied this position for five years, or until 1903, in which year he received the appointment to the position he now holds and has ever since served as official court reporter for Auglaize county. It is not too much to say that Mr. Blair is recognized as one of the best and most experienced court reporters in Ohio. During his many years of service in this important and trying capacity he has reported more than 8,000 cases

in court, these including no fewer than six first-degree murder trials, in one of which the extreme penalty was imposed. Mr. Blair has always been a loyal supporter of the Democratic party and has long been regarded as among the leaders of that party in this county. He is a member of the Wapakoneta Outing Club and is affiliated with the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and with the local Swabian Society. On March 31, 1901, Clifford O. Blair was united in marriage to Nevada Sellers, of Lima, Ohio, and to this union two sons have been born, Robert Henry and Herbert Melville Blair, both of whom have been graduated from the Wapakoneta high school and are still at home. The Blairs have a very pleasant home at 102 East Benton street in Wapakoneta and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social and cultural activities of the city.

HENRY BOCKRATH, a former trustee of Jackson township and a well known farmer and landowner of that township, now living retired at Minster, where he has made his home for the past seventeen years, was born in that township and has lived there all his life. Mr. Bockrath was born on February 24, 1854, and is a son of Henry and Bernardina (Bocklage) Bockrath, both of whom were of European birth, the latter a native of the grand duchy of Oldenburg and the former of the kingdom of Hanover, and had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth. The late Henry Bockrath, formerly a well known farmer of Jackson township, was but a lad when he came to this country with his parents, the family coming on out into Ohio and locating in the Minster neighborhood, about a mile east of town, where they established their home. On that pioneer farm he grew to manhood and after his marriage established his home on a farm in that same neighborhood, where he remained until his retirement and removal to Minster, where his last days were spent. To him and his wife were born three children, the subject of this sketch and his two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth. Reared on the home farm east of town, the junior Henry Bockrath received his schooling in the Minster schools and from the days of his boyhood was a valued aid to his father in the latter's agricultural operations. After his marriage he for a time rented the home place and then bought it and on that farm of 123 acres continued to make his home until his retirement from the farm in 1905 and removal to Minster, where he since has made his home and where his wife died on July 26, 1909. Mr. Bockrath is a Republican of independent leanings and for six years served the public as a trustee of Jackson township. He also for three years served as school director in his district. He is a member of St. Augustine's Catholic church and a member of the St. Augustine Orphans So-

ciety. Henry Bockrath (II) married Margaret Rehring and to that union were born nine children, seven of whom are living, John, Mary, Henry (III), Matilda, Joseph, Louise and Ferdinand, all of whom are married save Matilda and Joseph. John Bockrath married Mary Kirtun and has two children, Lawrence and Catherine. Mary Bockrath married Frank Kemper and has three children, John, Lawrence and Hilda. Henry Bockrath (III) married Julia Schneider and has ten children, Edwin, Alice, Victor, Esther, Mabel, Bertha, Frank, Henry (IV), Mary and Jeannette. Louise Bockrath married John Brandewie and has one child, a son, Louis, and Ferdinand Bockrath married Hulda Wiggenhorn. It thus will be noted that Mr. Bockrath has sixteen grandchildren, in all of whom he takes much delight.

CARL TOPP, proprietor of a well improved farm a mile or more southeast of New Bremen and one of the well known and progressive farmers and landowners of German township was born on August 5, 1869, and is a son of William and Anna (Klute) Topp, the latter of whom was born in Germany and had come to this country with her parents in the days of her childhood, the Klutes settling in the New Bremen neighborhood. The late William Topp was born at New Bremen and was a son of John William Topp and wife, who were among the original settlers of that community in the '30s, having come up here from Cincinnati some time following their arrival in this country from their native Germany. John William Topp was the village shoemaker at New Bremen and died there during the cholera epidemic which swept through this region following the opening of the canal in the '40s. William Topp grew up at New Bremen and after his marriage bought a farm of eighty acres—the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of section 8 and the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 9 in German township—a mile or more from New Bremen and there established his home. He continued farming that place until his retirement and removal to a small place he had bought on the outskirts of New Bremen, where he died a few years later. He and his wife were the parents of thirteen children, eight of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Mary, Caroline, Minnie and Sophia, and three brothers, Henry, John and Ernest Topp. Reared on the home farm in German township, Carl Topp received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and was early trained in the ways of practical farming, a vocation he has ever followed. For some time as a young man he worked as a farm hand for other farmers in the neighborhood and then returned to the home farm and was engaged in farming in association with his father until after his marriage, when he rented the home place, his father retiring at that time, and began farming on his own account.

Three years later he and his wife bought the place and have ever since made it their home, since then having made extensive improvements on the farm, and are now very comfortably and very pleasantly situated. Since taking possession of this place they have added by purchase an adjacent "forty" and now have 120 acres and a well improved farm plant. Carl Topp married Minnie Thiemann, a daughter of Henry Thiemann, also a member of one of the old families of German township, and to this union have been born five children, Anna, Marie, Ida, Hermina and Walter, the two elder of whom are married. Anna Topp married William Topp and has three children, Helen, Irene and Vernon, and Marie Topp married Raymond Mohrman and has one child, Dorsey. The Topps are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church at New Bremen and are Democrats.

JACOB DIEGEL, who died at his home in Washington township in the fall of 1921, had been a resident of this county since the days of his young manhood and at his passing left a good memory in the community in which he had long resided. The late Jacob Diegel was born in Lorain county, Ohio, May 4, 1841, and was a son of Jacob and Christina Diegel, who later came to Auglaize county and settled on a farm of eighty acres which the elder Jacob Diegel bought in Washington township. On this pioneer farm the junior Jacob Diegel grew to manhood. After his marriage he established his home on a farm in St. Marys township, which he and his brother owned, and there he remained for about eight years, at the end of which time he sold his interest in that place and bought a farm of eighty acres in the southwest quarter of section 13 of Washington township, west of Owl creek, to which he moved with his family and there he spent the remainder of his life in farming, his death occurring on November 4, 1921. He was a good farmer and had increased his land holdings there to 160 acres, the operations of which since his death have been carried on by his sons, well known and progressive farmers of that neighborhood. The late Jacob Diegel married Sarah C. Roberts, who was born in Washington township on January 29, 1845, a daughter of Jesse Roberts, one of the best known pioneers of that part of the county and concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this work. To that union were born six children, five of whom, Edward, William, John, Bert and Harry, are living. The eldest of these sons, Edward Diegel, married Matilda Smith and has one child, a son, Russell. The Diegel brothers are Republicans and take a proper interest in the general political affairs of the county. The Diegel home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 2 out of Wapakoneta. The Diegel brothers, William, John, Bert and Harry, are farming 220 acres in Washington township.

WILLIAM BIERBAUM, one of the best known farmers and landowners of Washington township and the proprietor of a well-kept farm along the creek two miles northeast of New Knoxville, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life, a period of nearly seventy years. Mr. Bierbaum was born on March 31, 1854, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Holtkamp) Bierbaum, natives of Germany, who were married in that country and who immediately thereafter came to the United States and proceeded on out into Ohio and settled in Auglaize county, thus having been among the pioneers of the New Knoxville neighborhood. The senior William Bierbaum had saved up a bit of money in preparation to his coming to America, his object having been to buy a piece of land here and settle down as a farmer. Through correspondence he had learned of the possibilities awaiting settlers in this section of Ohio, and at the solicitation of kinsmen in the New Knoxville settlement he had decided to put in his lot with the pioneers of this region. Upon coming here he looked around a bit and became attracted to the land lying along the creek in the west half of section 22 of Washington township, and he bought a partially cleared tract of eighty acres there, paying something more than $300 for the same, and established his home on the place and settled down to complete the clearing and get the place under way for farming. Before his plans were fully carried out death interrupted his labors, his death occurring in 1858, his widow being left with three small children, two of whom grew to maturity, the subject of this sketch and his sister, Mary. Mrs. Bierbaum survived her husband many years, maintaining her home on the farm and increasing her holdings there until she was the owner of a farm of 120 acres, and there she spent her last days, her death occurring on July 13, 1892. The junior William Bierbaum was but four years of age when his father died, and he thus early began to assume mature responsibilities in the matter of carrying on the operations of his mother's farm. He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained with his mother on the farm until her death, after which he took over the place of 120 acres and has since been living there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of this farm Mr. Bierbaum has made numerous improvements on the place and has one of the best equipped farm plants in the neighborhood. Though for some time practically retired from the active operations of the farm, he maintains his interest in affairs and keeps alert to the modern advances in agricultural methods. Mr. Bierbaum is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to general civic affairs, but the only public service he has accepted was as school director in his district, an acceptable service which he rendered for nine or ten years some years ago. He and his family are members of the Reformed

WILLIAM BIERBAUM AND FAMILY

church at New Knoxville, and he has served as a deacon of that congregation. William Bierbaum married Mary Henkener, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this section of Ohio, and to this union seven children were born, four of whom grew to maturity, George, Matilda, Emma and Sarah, all of whom are still living save Emma, who married Dr. F. Fledderjohann and died leaving two children, Orlando and Norman. George Bierbaum, who is now carrying on the operation of the home farm in his father's behalf, married Caroline Hoelscher and has four children, Olga, Robert, Ruth and Reuben. Matilda Bierbaum married William Hoelscher and has four children, Irene, Lenora, Myron and Elody, and Sarah Bierbaum married William Henschen and has four children, Velma, Miriam, Hosea and Margaret. Mrs. Mary Bierbaum was born at Cincinnati, but has been a resident of this section of Ohio since the days of her childhood. Her parents, William and Henrietta (Schlueter) Henkener, both were born in Germany, but had come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth, the two families locating in Cincinnati, where they were married. After their marriage they continued to make their home in Cincinnati for some years and then came up here into this part of Ohio and located in Shelby county, where William Henkener bought a farm and spent the rest of his life engaged in farming. William Henkener was twice married, and of the children born to his first wife three lived to maturity, Mrs. Bierbaum and her sisters, Emma and Kate. Following the death of the mother of these children, Mr. Henkener married Fredericka Schmidt, and to that union were born five children, four of whom are still living, Henry, George, John and Anna. The Bierbaum farm is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 3 out of St. Marys.

FRANK P. HARDIN, assessor of Union township and a well known and substantial farmer and stockman of that township, proprietor of a well improved farm in the pleasant valley of Virginia creek northeast of Uniopolis, was born on the farm on which he is now living, and has lived there all his life, a period of more than sixty-five years. Mr. Hardin was born on August 22, 1857, and is a son of Jesse and Mary (Brentlinger) Hardin, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that vicinity, the latter a daughter of John Brentlinger, who had entered his lands in section 7 of Union township in 1834, two years following the departure of the Indians from this region. Jesse Hardin was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and was four years of age when he came to Ohio with his parents, John Hardin and wife, the family settling in Knox county, where they remained for some years, or until the settlement of lands up in this part of the state began to attract the attention of prospective settlers. In 1835 John Hardin came here and entered claim

to a tract of land in section 10 of Union township, this land then having been a part of Allen county, and almost immediately thereafter cut out a clearing on the woodland tract, erected a log cabin on the same and moved his family here and established his home. He was a good farmer of the go-ahead pioneer type, well trained to woodcraft in his native Pennsylvania, and as his affairs prospered he added to his holdings there until he became the owner of no less than 600 acres along the creeks in sections 9 and 10 of Union township and was accounted one of the substantial and influential pioneers of that community, and here he spent the remainder of his life. He was twice married, his first wife having died in Knox county in 1833, and he was the father of eleven children. As most of these children lived to maturity and had families of their own, the Hardin connection in the present generation, of this line, is a no inconsiderable one. Jesse Hardin was four years of age when the family moved from Pennsylvania to Ohio and he was a well grown boy when his father moved from Knox county to his new lands in what is now Auglaize county. He thus took a hand at once in the laborious task of clearing and developing the woodland tract upon which his father had settled, and after his marriage continued to farm on that place. To the tract he received by inheritance following his father's death he added until he became the owner of more than 300 acres of excellent land and had a well improved farm. On that place he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1882. His widow survived him for many years, her death occurring in 1916, she then having been at the great age of ninety-eight years. Of the eleven children born to Jesse and Mary (Brentlinger) Hardin but two are now living, the subject of this sketch and his sister, Mary. The deceased members of this family were John, Martha, Louisa, Catherine, Lucinda, Martin, Joseph, Anna and Melissa. Reared on the old home farm, where he was born, Frank P. Hardin received his schooling in the neighborhood school (district No. 2) and from the days of his boyhood was trained to the ways of farming. He remained on the farm with his father during the days of his young manhood, helping in the labors of developing and improving the place, and after his marriage at the age of twenty-four continued to farm there. Within less than a year afterward his father died and he then came into possession of the home "eighty" by inheritance and has continued to reside there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Hardin has added to his holdings there until now he is the owner of a fine farm of 242 acres, all a part of the original Hardin holdings there in Union township. In addition to his general farming he has for years given much attention to live stock, with particular reference to Percheron horses, Holstein cattle and Poland China hogs, and has done well in these operations, long

having been recognized as one of the leading stockmen of that part of the county. Mr. Hardin is a Democrat and for twenty-five years has been serving as assessor of Union township, thus being recognized as an authority on land values in that part of the county. It was on Christmas Day, 1881, that Frank P. Hardin was united in marriage to Harriet J. Parlett, who also was born in this county, a member of one of the old families here, daughter of John and Mary Parlett, and to this union have been born four children, Lillian and Roy, deceased, and Jesse M. and Carl F. Hardin, both of whom are married. Jesse M. Hardin has been twice married and by his first marriage, to Lora Countryman, has one child, a son, Franklin D. He married his deceased wife's sister, Grace Countryman, and by this latter union has one child, a daughter, Koneta. Carl F. Hardin married Emma Stephenson and has one child, a daughter, Yvonne. The Hardin home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis.

EARL S. KAUFFMAN, manager of the plant of the Uniopolis Lumber Company at Uniopolis and one of the best known business men of that part of the county, has only been a resident of Auglaize county for the past seven or eight years, but in that time has made many friends here. Mr. Kauffman was born on a farm in Union township, Logan county, in the immediate vicinity of Degraff, January 26, 1878, and is a son of Levi and Sarah (Snyder) Kauffman, who are now living retired at Bellefontaine. Levi Kauffman was born in Champaign county, this state, and there grew to manhood, later locating on a farm near Degraff, where he continued engaged in farming until his retirement and removal to Bellefontaine, where he is now living. To him and his wife were born three children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Blanche, and a brother, Frank Kauffman. Reared on the farm near Degraff, Earl S. Kauffman was graduated from the high school in Degraff village in 1895 and for two years thereafter taught school in the schools of his home county. He then took a trip West and was gone for three years, at the end of which time he returned to Bellefontaine and was for six years thereafter engaged there as a railway telegrapher. He then returned West and remained there until 1910, when he returned to Bellefontaine and became employed there in the extensive plant of the Logan County Lumber Company, where he became thoroughly familiar with the details of the local lumber business and where he continued thus engaged until in January, 1915, when he accepted his present position as manager of the affairs of the Uniopolis Lumber Company at Uniopolis and has since made his home in this latter village, he and his family being very pleasantly situated there. It was on May 22, 1906, that Earl S. Kauffman was united in marriage to Carrie Emery, of Bellefontaine, and to this union four

children have been born, Earl, Maxine, Dana and Ned, all of whom are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Kauffman are members of the Presbyterian church and Mr. Kauffman is affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Uniopolis. He is a Republican and takes a good citizen's interest in local public affairs, for four years (1918-22) having served as a member of the Uniopolis town council, and is a member of the local school board, clerk of the latter board. He is a thoroughly qualified lumberman and under his direction during the past few years the affairs of the Uniopolis Lumber Company have been greatly extended throughout the region it serves.

PHILIP P. METZ, a former trustee of Pusheta township and one of that township's well known and progressive farmers and landowners, was born on a farm in the neighboring county of Shelby, March 5, 1865, and is a son of Philip and Catherine (Elsass) Metz, both natives of the French province of Alsace-Lorraine and the latter of whom was but three years of age when she came to this country with her parents, the family locating in Stark county, Ohio, and six years later coming to Auglaize county, where they established their home. The senior Philip Metz was seventeen years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family settling in Stark county, Ohio, whence presently they moved to Shelby county and later to Auglaize county, settling in the Freyburg neighborhood in Pusheta township. After his marriage in this county Philip Metz moved back to Shelby county, where ne established his home on a farm and spent the remainder of his life, becoming there the owner of 600 acres of land. To him and his wife were born eleven children, all of whom are living save three, Sophia, Elizabeth and Chris, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Jacob, George, William, Michael, Mary, Caroline and Elizabeth. Reared on the home farm in Shelby county, Philip P. Metz received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and from the days of his boyhood his attention was given to the affairs of the farm, he having worked in his father's interest, helping to develop and improve the home place, until his marriage at the age of twenty-nine years, when he began farming on his own account on one of his father's farms. He continued thus engaged for about ten years, or until about twenty years ago, when he bought the farm of 120 acres on which he is now living in Pusheta township and has since resided there. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Metz has made numerous substantial improvements on the farm, among the more recent of which was the remodeling of his dwelling house and the stuccoing of the same and the erection of a new barn and a silo, and he now has a well improved farm plant. In addition to his general farming he has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. Mr. Metz has ever

given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and for four years (1917-21) rendered public service as a member of the board of trustees for Pusheta township. He and his family are members of St. Johns Lutheran church near Freyburg. It was on April 10, 1894, that Philip P. Metz was united in marriage to Christina Sophia Helmlinger, who died on November 14, 1920. Mrs. Metz was born in Clay township, this county, June 13, 1872, and was a daughter of Louis and Magdaline (Clopfenstein) Helmlinger, who were the parents of six children, all of whom are living save Mrs. Metz, she having had one sister, Emma, and four brothers, George, Philip, John and William Helmlinger. To Mr. and Mrs. Metz were born four children, all of whom are living save one daughter, Amelia, who died in infancy, the others being Raymond, Cora and Floyd, the two latter of whom are still in school, attending the Lenox school (district No. 6) in the neighborhood of their home. The Metz home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 2 out of Wapakoneta.

JOHN WINGET, who formerly and for years was a well known operator in the local oil fields and who is now a successful farmer in Duchouquet township, where he resides, rural mail route No. 4, out of Wapakoneta, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county, his grandfather, Reuben Winget, having been among the first settlers in Duchouquet township after the Indians left there in 1832. John Winget was born on July 15, 1862, and is a son of Joshua and Elizabeth (Reichelderfer) Winget, the latter of whom also was a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, the Reichelderfers having come here in the early days of the settlement of this region. The late Joshua Winget also was born in Duchouquet township and was a son of Reuben and Lydia Winget, who, as noted above, were among the pioneers of that township, Reuben Winget having entered from the Government his claim to a tract of land in the east half of section 5 of Duchouquet township in 1832, the year in which the old Wapakoneta Indian reservation was opened to settlement, he thus becoming one of the original settlers of that community, where he spent his last days. It was on that pioneer farm there about four miles north of Wapakoneta that Joshua Winget grew to manhood. He early became interested in the lumber industry and for years operated a saw mill in that neighborhood, in addition to his labors as a farmer, and when the oil "boom" broke out here in the late '80s he also became interested in oil production and did much to help develop the rich oil pool which attracted so much attention in that part of the county, afterwards retiring from the farm and moving to Wapakoneta, where his last days were spent. He and his wife were the parents of four children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Alice, and two brothers, Charles A. and William R. Winget. Reared on the home farm in Duchouquet township, John

Winget received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and as a young man helped his father in the operation of the farm and saw mill. When the oil fields were opened up he became associated with his father in operations in connection with the new industry thus developed and continued working in the oil fields until 1910, when he moved onto the farm of 130 acres on which he is now living in Duchouquet township and has since been engaged there in farming. On December 26, 1886, John Winget was united in marriage to Ada McDougal, also of Duchouquet township, and to this union have been born eight children, Edward, Joshua, Ray, John, Bernard, Amos, Ilo and Edith, three of whom are married. Edward Winget married Mamie Dickson and has four children, Lloyd, Otho, Catherine and Gerald. Joshua Winget married Lela McClintock and has one child, Mack, and Bernard Winget married Alvina Swivel and has one child, Phyllis. The Wingets have a pleasant home and Mr. Winget has a well equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming he operates a saw mill and a threshing rig and gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock. In his political views he maintains his independence of party ties.

CASPER REITHMANN, a former trustee of Jackson township and one of the best known farmers of that township, proprietor of a well improved farm in the vicinity of Minster, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life, a period of more than sixty-five years, and thus has seen some amazing changes take place since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Reithmann was born on September 19, 1856, and is a son of Henry and Catherine (Massing) Reithmann, both of whom were born in Germany. Henry Reithmann was twenty-two years of age when he came to this country and for some time thereafter he was employed at Cincinnati. He then came up here into Auglaize county and bought a tract of forty acres in the Minster neighborhood and on that place established his home. When he bought this "forty" it had been partially cleared and there was a log cabin on the place, and it was in that cabin that he and his wife started their home keeping and it was there that their children were born. Henry Reithmann cleared that farm and added to it an adjoining tract of twenty acres and on that place spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1869, and his widow survived him for more than twenty-five years. They were the parents of nine children, but two of whom are now living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Joseph Reithmann, who married Josephine Plageman and has five children, Louis, Emma, Clara, Nettie and Albert. Reared on the home farm in the neighborhood of Minster, Casper Reithmann received his schooling in the Minster schools. He was but thirteen years of age when his father died, and as the eldest son of the family he thus early assumed mature responsibilities as an

aid to his mother in the labors of keeping the farm going. They were successful, however, and after awhile added an adjoining tract of thirty acres to the farm, this giving them a good farm of ninety acres, the place now owned and occupied by Casper Reithmann, who took over the farm after his mother's death in 1896. Since taking individual possession of this place Mr. Reithmann has made numerous substantial improvements on the place and has a well equipped farm plant. Mr. Reithmann is a Democrat and has for years taken an interested part in local civic affairs, having for four years served as a member of the board of trustees for Jackson township. He and his family are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church, of which he formerly was a trustee, and he also is a member of the St. Augustine Society. Casper Reithmann has been twice married. His first wife was Mary Schwegman, a daughter of Theodore Schwegman, who died leaving two children, Anna and Joseph, both of whom are married and have considerable families. Following the death of the mother of these children Mr. Reithmann married Agatha Plageman, daughter of Henry Plageman, and to this union have been born seven children, five of whom are living, Rose, Frank, Julius, August and Agatha, but one of whom is married. Anna Reithmann married Anthony Kuether and has seven children, Henry, Bernard, Caroline, Leo, Mary, Lawrence and Josephine. Joseph Reithmann married Agnes Prenger and has six children, Raymond, Marcella, Cecelia, Clarence, Dorothy and Lorena. Frank Reithmann married Nora Boehmer and has two children, Esther and Edwin. The old Reithmann home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster.

HENRY HOELSCHER, one of Jackson township's well known and progressive young farmers and the proprietor of a well improved farm in the neighborhood of Minster, was born on that farm on January 12, 1896, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Bankemper) Hoelscher, both of whom (now deceased) also were born in Jackson township, members of pioneer families in that part of the county. The late John Hoelscher grew to manhood on a farm and after his marriage began farming on his own account, establishing his home on the farm now owned and occupied by his son Henry in the vicinity of Minster, developing there a well kept place of seventy-five acres. There he and his wife made their home until their retirement in 1907 and removal to Minster, where their last days were spent, Mrs. Hoelscher dying in 1918 and Mr. Hoelscher, in 1919. They were members of St. Augustine's Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith. There were six of these children, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Mary and Cecelia. Reared on the home farm, the place where he is now living, Henry Hoelscher received his

schooling in the Minster schools and was for some time, as a young man employed at Minster. After his marriage he established his home on the home farm and began farming there on his own account, renting the place from his father. Upon his father's death he came into possession of the place and has since been living there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Hoelscher has made numerous substantial improvements on the place and has a well equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. Henry Hoelscher married Louise Ahrens, daughter of Henry and Bernardine Ahrens, and to this union have been born three children, Alton, Robert and Walter. Mr. and Mrs. Hoelscher are members of St. Augustine's church and in their political views hold themselves free of party ties, preferring to be regarded as independent voters. Their home is on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster.

WILLIAM N. BOWSHER, a well-known farmer of Duchouquet township, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of this part of the state, his grandfather having settled in this region shortly after the Indians left here back in the '30s of the past century. Mr. Bowsher was born on a farm in Duchouquet township on April 7, 1861, and is a son of William and Sarah (Shappell) Bowsher, the latter of whom was a member of the pioneer Shappell family which settled in the upper part of Duchouquet township in the early days of the settlement of that region. William Bowsher was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, and was but three years of age when his parents, Benjamin and Elizabeth (Delong) Bowsher, came with their family up into this part of the state and settled in Shawnee township, Allen county. That was about the year 1835, thirteen years before Auglaize county was organized, and but three years after the Indians had left their old reservations at Wapakoneta and on Hog creek, so that Benjamin Bowsher may be accounted as one of the real pioneers of this section of the state. He and his wife were the parents of thirteen children, two of whom, Elizabeth and Matilda, are still living, the venerable aunts of the subject of this sketch. William Bowsher was the fifth in order of birth of these children and he grew to manhood on the pioneer farm his father had undertaken to clear and develop. He remained on that farm, a valued aid in this development work, until he attained his majority, when he bought a "forty" down over the line in the east half of the northwest quarter of section 32 of Duchouquet township, this county, east of Two Mile creek and adjoining the Shappell farm, and there established his home. He later added to this farm an adjoining "forty" and on that eighty-acre farm there along the county line he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on May 1, 1903.

To him and his wife were born nine children, all of whom are living save two (Daniel and Benjamin), the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Missouri, Mollie and Emma, and three brothers, George, Solomon and Rufus Bowsher. Reared on the home farm in the upper part of Duchouquet township, William N. Bowsher received his schooling in the school house of district No. 9, right at a corner of his father's farm, and remained at home until he was twenty-one, when he took up the carpenter's trade and became a thorough carpenter and builder. For twenty-two years Mr. Bowsher continued working at this vocation, three years of which time he made his home at Hume, over the line in Allen county, and then, in 1888, he retired from that business and established his home on a 100-acre farm owned by his wife in Duchouquet township, and has since made that place his home, actively engaged in farming, and has done well, he and his family having a pleasant home there on rural mail route No. 4 out of Wapakoneta. On March 12, 1886, William N. Bowsher was united in marriage to Susan J. Culp, also a member of one of the old families in this county, who was born in Logan township, daughter of James A. and Anna (Krauss) Culp, and to this union have been born three sons, Russell A., Merrill and Osborne, the latter of whom died at the age of seventeen years. Russell A. Bowsher married Della Hoverman and is living in Duchouquet township. Merrill Bowsher, who also continues to make his home in this county, married Ethel Gross and has three children, Waldo, Eleanor and Winifred. Mr. and Mrs. Bowsher are members of the Lutheran church and they and their sons are Republicans. The Bowsher family has been represented in Ohio for nearly 120 years, for it was in 1804, the year following the admission of this state to statehood, that the family of which Benjamin Bowsher, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a member, came to the state and took up their location in Pickaway county.

H. J. HINZE, senior member of the H. K. K. Roofing Company of New Knoxville, general roofing contractors and dealers in plumbing and electrical supplies, a member of the town council of New Knoxville and for years one of the active figures in the general industrial and commercial life of that village, was born on a farm down in the neighboring county of Shelby, three miles south of New Knoxville, March 12, 1882, and is a son of William and Fredericka Hinze, the latter of whom also was born in Ohio. She died when the subject of this sketch was a small boy. The late William Hinze was born in Germany, where he grew to manhood. As a young man he came to this country and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating in this county and becoming employed as a farm hand in the New Knoxville neighborhood. He married there and then bought a farm in the woods down in Shelby county and there established his

home, becoming in time the owner of about 100 acres, which he cleared and developed and on which he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1894. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, six of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having five sisters, Caroline, Lena, Elizabeth, Sophia and Anna. Reared on the home farm in Shelby county, H. J. Hinze received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and as a young man took a prospecting trip out into South Dakota, where he spent two years working at Huron with a view possibly to locating there, but not finding conditions to his liking returned to Ohio and located at New Knoxville, where he became engaged in the tinning business in partnership with George Luecke. Four years later this firm took into partnership Samuel Katterheinrich and thereafter did business under the firm name of the H. L. & K. Roofing Company. In 1913 Mr. Luecke sold his interest in the firm to C. D. Katterheinrich and the business since has been carried on under the name of the H. K. K. Roofing Company. In 1916 this firm took over the local agency for the installation of Delco lighting plants and also became engaged in the general plumbing and electrical line, together with general furnace work, in addition to its old established tinning and roofing business, and has built up a very desirable trade, one of the most progressive and go-ahead concerns in the town. Mr. Hinze married Catherine Margaret Holtorf, daughter of Albert Holtorf, a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, and has three children, Beatrice, Howard and Kenneth. Mr. and Mrs. Hinze are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville and are Republicans. Mr. Hinze has long given close attention to local civic affairs and for the past ten years and more has been serving as a member of the village council.

MISS JENNIE WHITAKER, a tailoress employed in the Zofkie-Foos establishment at Wapakoneta, was born at Covington, Ohio, and is a daughter of the Rev. Nathan Whitaker, who died at Troy, Ohio, in 1867. The Rev. Nathan Whitaker, a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, was born in Buncombe county, North Carolina, and was a son of Israel and Mary Whitaker. He early turned his attention to study for the gospel ministry and in due time was ordained a local clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church, presently being assigned to the Miami (Ohio) Conference and was preaching at Troy, this state, when his death occurred in 1867. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch and her sister Amanda. The deceased children of this family were Levi, Arthur, David, Elizabeth, Ada and Nancy. Mrs. Whitaker, widow of the Rev. Nathan Whitaker, was a skilled seamstress and after the death of her husband employed herself thus as a means of eking out the slender income

left for herself and children. She remained at Troy until 1889, when she moved to Wapakoneta with her daughters, Jennie and Ada. Mrs. Whitaker was born in Clermont county, this state, where she was married. She died at Wapakoneta in 1902.

JOSEPH J. MILLER, a well known farmer and landowner of Auglaize county, now living retired at Uniopolis, is a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, the Millers having been represented here since the middle '30s of the past century. Mr. Miller was born on a farm in Union township on July 4, 1855, and is a son of Simeon and Jane (Lusk) Miller, the latter of whom also was a member of one of the first families to settle in that part of what is now Auglaize county, the Lusks having been represented there, even as the Millers, since the days of the opening of lands thereabout to entry. The late Simeon Miller grew up in Union township and after his marriage established his home on a "forty" he had bought in that township. To this he presently added an adjoining forty and continued farming there until he sold that place and moved into Duchouquet township. Some time later be bought another farm in Wayne township and on this latter place was engaged in farming until his retirement, his last days having been spent in the home of one of his sons in Perry township, Allen county, where he died on September 18, 1920, at a ripe old age. Simeon Miller was twice married and by his first wife, Jane Lusk, was the father of two sons and a daughter, the subject of this sketch, Benjamin and Mary Ann. Following the death of the mother of these children Mr. Miller married Nancy Lusk, his deceased wife's sister, and to this union were born three sons, Charles, William and Manford (deceased), and a daughter, Ida. Joseph J. Miller was seven years of age when his mother died and he then was taken into the household of his uncle, Joseph Hardin, of Union township, where he grew to manhood, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools. When twenty years of age he married and began farming his uncle's place. For twenty years or more Mr. Miller continued thus engaged on the Hardin farm and then he bought a tract of sixty acres in Union township and began farming on his own account. To this tract he presently added an adjoining tract of forty-nine acres, this giving him a farm of 109 acres, which he continued to operate for twenty years, or until his retirement in 1914 and removal to Uniopolis, where he since has made his home. In addition to the general farming which he carried on during the years of his activity, Mr. Miller also was extensively engaged in dealing in live stock and was widely known as a stockman. He is a Democrat and has rendered public service as supervisor of roads in his district. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Uniopolis. On September 13, 1874, Joseph J. Miller was

united in marriage to Martha Hardin, who also was born in Union township, daughter of Perry and Abigail (Ridley) Hardin, and he and his wife have two children, William E. and Blanche, both of whom are married. William E. Miller married Elvina Lemon and has five children, Everett, Rosetta, Carrie, Ethel and Irvin. Blanche Miller married Roy Shaw and has three children, Milo, Myron and Chloe. Mrs. Miller's father, Perry Hardin, also was born in Auglaize county and her mother was born in Licking county. Perry Hardin was a well-to-do farmer of Union township and he and his wife were the parents of seven children, three of whom are still living, Mrs. Miller having a sister, Catherine, and a brother, Herbert Hardin.

GILFORD D. HARDIN, a member of one of the old families of Union township, now living retired at Uniopolis, was born in Union township and has lived there all his life with the exception of a period of some years prior to his retirement, when he was living in the neighboring county of Allen. Mr. Hardin was born on June 14, 1850, and is a son of Mark and Margaret (Sloan) Hardin, who had a fine farm along the creeks in section 10 of Union township, about two miles northeast of Uniopolis. Mark Hardin, who became one of the large landowners of that township, was born in Knox county, this state, and was sixteen years of age when he came to what is now Auglaize county with his parents, John and Catherine Hardin, the family settling on a tract of land which John Hardin had entered from the Government in section 10 of Union township in 1835. John Hardin was a go-ahead pioneer and became one of the substantial landowners of that part of the county, which at the time of his settlement there and until thirteen years later was included within the confines of Allen county. On that pioneer farm Mark Hardin grew to manhood and after his marriage became a farmer on his own account, buying a farm in that vicinity, and as his affairs prospered continued to add to his holdings until he became the owner of 640 acres of land. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Lydia, and three brothers, George, Charles and Jacob Hardin. The deceased members of this family were Mary Ann, Nancy, John, Marion and Joseph Hardin. Reared on the home farm in section 10 of Union township, Gilford D. Hardin received his schooling in the neighborhood school (district No. 2) and upon attaining his majority began farming a tract of eighty acres which his father gave him in that neighborhood. After his marriage he continued farming there, meanwhile increasing his holdings to 142 acres, until he disposed of that place and bought a farm of 110 acres north of there along the county line. On this latter place he made his home for twenty-five years, at the end of which time he moved up into Allen county, where he and his wife

bought a small farm of thirty-two acres and where he lived until his retirement from the farm and removal to Uniopolis, where he has since made his home. On April 24, 1884, Gilford D. Hardin was united in marriage to Lillie M. Harrod, also a member of one of the old families of Union township, daughter of Levi and Susan Harrod, and to this union have been born six children, Alice, Grace, Ada, Claude, Clarence and Harry, all of whom are married save the last named. Alice Hardin married Edward Hartung and has three children, Carl, Zenith and Darrell. Grace Hardin married Edward Shade and has five children, Argyle, Lucille, Donna, Evelyn and Merlin. Ada Hardin married Edward Lytle and has four children, Opal, Ganelle, Foster and Catherine. Claude Hardin married Bertha Miller and has two children, Claris and Robert, and Clarence Hardin married Mary Pantry and has had two children, who died in infancy. Mrs. Hardin is a member of the Church of Christ.

WILLIAM H. KOLTER, one of Pusheta township's substantial and progressive farmers and proprietor of an excellent farm in the northwest corner of that township, about a mile southwest of Wapakoneta, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Kolter was born at Wapakoneta on September 30, 1868, and is a son of Louis and Elizabeth (Elsass) Kolter, the latter of whom was born in Stark county, this state, and was about twelve years of age when she came to Auglaize county with her parents, the family settling in Pusheta township. Louis Kolter was born in Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and early became engaged in the milling business at Wapakoneta, where for some years after his marriage he made his home. He then moved onto the farm on which his son William is now living, south and west of town, and for some time operated a brick yard there. He died on that place on August 14, 1874. His widow survived him many years, her death occurring on September 7, 1916. They were the parents of six children, all of whom are living save one son, Jacob Kolter, who died at the age of fifty-four years, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Caroline, Elizabeth and Louise, and a brother, Frederick Kolter. William H. Kolter was but a lad when his parents moved from town to the farm southwest of town and he finished his schooling in the Lenox school (district No. 6). He was not quite six years of age when his father died and upon him and his brother Fred thus early devolved the responsibility of keeping up the farm in their mother's behalf. When he was twenty-two years of age he became associated with his brother in a plan of farm management whereby the brothers bought the farm implements and stock on the place from their mother and rented the fields, beginning then to operate the place on their own behalf. Eight years later they bought the farm and two years after that William Kolter bought

from his brother Fred the latter's interest in the place, which consisted then of 100 acres, and has since then been proprietor. He later bought an additional tract of 100 acres and thus now has a fine farm of 200 acres, all of which he operates. In addition to his general farming Mr. Kolter feeds off about thirty head of cattle and about the same number of hogs each year, and is doing well. All the buildings on the place have been erected since he took possession and everything is modern and shipshape, his farm plant and dwelling house being equipped with an individual electric lighting system and running water from a direct pressure system. Mr. Kolter is a Republican. He and his family are members of St. Paul's Evangelical church at Wapakoneta and he is a member of the board of trustees of that church. On April 16, 1902, William H. Kolter was united in marriage to Anna Ramge, who also was born in this county, a member of one of the old families here, and to this union have been born two daughters, Helen, born on December 31, 1903, who was graduated from Blume high school at Wapakoneta and is now a junior in Bluffton College at Bluffton, Ohio, and Cora, April 25, 1908, who is now in high school. The Kolters have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Wapakoneta. Mrs. Kolter was born in Duchouquet township and is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Burk) Ramge, who were the parents of eleven children, all of whom are living save two sons, William and August, who lived to maturity, and three who died in infancy, Mrs. Kolter having a sister, Katie, and four brothers, Eli, Chris, Charles and John Ramge.

HERMAN MECKSTROTH, one of the well known farmers of the New Knoxville neighborhood, living on the old Meckstroth farm on the New Bremen road about a mile southwest of New Knoxville, was born on that farm on May 26, 1879, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Fledderjohann) Meckstroth, both of whom were born in that same township (Washington), members of pioneer families there, and the latter of whom died in the summer of 1921. William Meckstroth, who is still living at his old home there, where he has resided for so many years, was born on the farm just adjacent to this, on the line between Washington township and Shelby county, in section 30, and is a son of William Meckstroth, a native of Germany, who had entered his land there from the Government in 1835, more than ten years before Auglaize county came into being, this land at that time having been included within the confines of Allen county. On this pioneer farm the junior William Meckstroth grew to manhood, becoming a practical farmer. After his marriage to Elizabeth Fledderjohann, a member of the pioneer Fledderjohann family of Washington township, he established his home on an adjoining farm and has ever since resided there, now making

his home with the family of his son Herman, the subject of this sketch. He formerly was the owner of a fraction more than ninety-three acres there, but for the convenience of one of his neighbors sold off ten acres of this place, the Meckstroth farm now comprising eighty-three acres. To him and his wife were born ten children, all of whom are still living save one, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Anna and Mary, and six brothers, William (Jr.), Benjamin, Frederick, Jacob, Daniel and Wesley. Reared on the home farm, Herman Meckstroth received his schooling in the nearby New Knoxville schools and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to farming. After his marriage he was for three years engaged in farming the farm of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Mary Aufderhaar, in Washington township, and then he returned to the old home farm and has since made his home there, managing the place in his father's behalf. The Meckstroth farm is well improved and has on it an excellent farm plant. In addition to his general farming Mr. Meckstroth gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well in his operations. It was in 1905 that Herman Meckstroth was united in marriage to Dora Aufderhaar, who also was born in Washington township, daughter of William and Mary Aufderhaar, and to this union two children have been born, Lawrence and Olga, both of whom are in school. Mr. and Mrs. Meckstroth are members of the German Methodist Episcopal church of New Knoxville and are Republicans. Mr. Meckstroth has long given close attention to the affairs of the church and is now one of the stewards of the congregation. The Meckstroth home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 4 out of St. Marys.

EDWARD J. HEITKAMP, one of German township's well known and progressive young farmers and the proprietor of a well improved farm in that township, situated on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster, is a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, the Heitkamps having been represented in the western part of the county from the days of early settlement there. Mr. Heitkamp was born on a farm in the Egypt neighborhood in Jackson township on August 25, 1894, and is a son of Joseph and Sophia (Hackman) Heitkamp, the former of whom also was born in that township, a son of Herman Heitkamp, who came up into this part of the state from Cincinnati following his marriage there not long after his arrival in this country from his native Germany and who became one of the useful and influential pioneers of the Egypt neighborhood, as is set out elsewhere in this volume, together with further details regarding the Heitkamp family in this county. Joseph Heitkamp, son of this pioneer, became a well-to-do farmer in the Egypt neighborhood, the owner of a farm of 200 acres, on which he reared his family and spent his last days. To Joseph and Sophia (Hack-

man) Heitkamp were born six children, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Rose, Anna and Agnes, and two brothers, Frank and Fred Heitkamp. Reared on the home farm in Jackson township, Edward J. Heitkamp received his schooling in the school at Egypt and remained on the home farm until his marriage, after which he bought a farm of 103 acres in Marion township in the neighboring county of Mercer and there made his home until in the fall of 1922, when he bought the farm of 120 acres on which he is now living in German township and he and his family have become very comfortably established there. In addition to his general farming Mr. Heitkamp has given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding his grain, and has been feeding out about eighty head of hogs a year. He carries on his operations in accordance with modern methods of agriculture and has done well. He even now is contemplating improvements on the place he recently has acquired and expects soon to have one of the best equipped farm plants in that neighborhood. Edward J. Heitkamp married Rosalia Bertke, daughter of Henry and Agnes (Goeke) Bertke, of German township, and to this union have been born three children, Irene, Alvira and Velma. Mr. and Mrs. Heitkamp are members of St. John's Catholic church at Maria Stein and are Democrats.

WILLIAM B. SCHROER, former land appraiser for Washington township and a well-known farmer and landowner of that township, living on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, was born in Washington township, a member of one of the pioneer families of the New Knoxville neighborhood, and has lived there all his life. Mr. Schroer was born on a farm about a mile north of New Knoxville on October 1, 1868, and is a son of Herman and Sophia (Wierwille) Schroer, the latter of whom also was born in that township, a member of the pioneer Wierwille family who were among the early settlers of that section of the county. Herman Schroer was born in Germany and was but a lad when he came to this country with his parents, the family coming on out here into western Ohio and becoming settlers of the New Knoxville neighborhood, where he grew to manhood and became a farmer, after his marriage establishing his home on an "eighty" in the woods north of New Knoxville, where his last days were spent and where he increased his land holdings to 245 acres. He and his wife were the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having seven sisters, Elizabeth, Sophia, Anna, Louise, Minnie, Fredericka and Flora, and a brother, Henry C. Schroer, concerning whom further mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Reared on the home farm, William B. Schroer "grew up" to the ways of the farm and has ever followed that vocation. His father died before his school days were over, and he thus early began to assume mature re-

WILLIAM B. SCHROER AND FAMILY

sponsibilities in connection with the operations of the home farm, continuing to farm in his mother's behalf until his marriage, when he established his home on the home place on which he is now living, which then belonged to his mother, and has since resided there, he and his family being quite comfortably situated. Mr. Schroer has a well-improved farm of seventy-five acres and his operations are carried on in accordance with modern methods of agriculture. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. William B. Schroer married Matilda Wellman, also a member of one of the old families of Washington township, a daughter of Henry and Christena (Kruse) Wellman, and to this union two children have been born, a son, Arthur, and a daughter, Bertha, the latter of whom is at home with her parents. Arthur Schroer married Huldah Schroerluke and has two children, Elvera and Ruth. In his political views Mr. Schroer is a Democrat with independent leanings and has given proper attention to local civic affairs. In 1910 he was elected land appraiser for his home township. He and his wife are members of the First Reformed church of New Knoxville, and he has served the congregation of that church as a deacon. Mrs. Matilda Schroer was born in Washington township, where her parents had settled following their marriage. Both her parents were born in Germany, but were married in this county. They were the parents of nine children, three of whom are still living, Mrs. Schroer having two brothers, Louis and Herman Wellman.

HOWARD A. TAYLOR, one of the best known farmers of Union township and the proprietor of a well improved farm along the creek just on the northwest edge of Uniopolis, was born in the neighboring county of Allen, but has been a resident of this county since he was eight years of age, a period of more than fifty-six years. Mr. Taylor was born on April 28, 1858, and is a son of Joseph and Adaline (Meyers) Taylor, who later became residents of Uniopolis. Joseph Taylor, who was born in Pennsylvania, came over into this part of Ohio as a young man and became a farmer and landowner in Allen county, where he made his home until in 1866, in which year he disposed of his interests in that county and came down into Auglaize county and opened a general store at Uniopolis, at the same time buying an "eighty" on the outskirts of the village, where he established his home. To this tract he later added an adjoining tract of forty acres and upon his retirement from the goods business gave his whole attention to the cultivation of his farm of 120 acres and there spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom two are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, William Taylor. The deceased members of this family were Eliza Jane, John Meyers, Henry, Mary,

Harriet and Almeda. As noted above, Howard A. Taylor was eight years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1866 and he grew to manhood at Uniopolis, receiving his schooling in the excellent schools of that pleasant village. From the days of his boyhood he has given his attention to the development of the home farm there on the edge of the village and after his marriage, at the age of twenty-four, bought sixty acres of the farm from his father and continued to make his home there. After awhile his father gave him an additional "forty" and to this he later added by purchase an adjoining forty, so that he came to have an excellent farm of 140 acres, admirably situated and profitably cultivated. Some time ago he sold a portion of this land to his son Guy and th is has left 118 acres. In addition to his general farming Mr. Taylor has ever given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done well. It was in October, 1882, that Howard A. Taylor was united in marriage to Josephine Focht, who was born in Union township, a member of one of the pioneer families there, daughter of Adam Focht, and to this union three children have been born, Bessie, Guy and Mace, the latter of whom married Walter Smith, who lives in Uniopolis, and has two children, Pauline and Atlee. Guy Taylor, now one of the trustees of Union township, is the proprietor of a farm of seventy-two acres and is carrying on his operations there in up-to-date fashion. The Taylors have a pleasant home on the outskirts of the village.

JOHN W. HOWE, who died at his home at Uniopolis in the summer of 1922 and whose widow is still living there, was for many years one of the best known men in that part of Auglaize county, farmer and landowner, school teacher, justice of the peace, clerk of the township and school examiner, and in all these various relations in life had rendered well his obligation to the community, so that at his passing he left there a good memory. Mr. Howe was a son of the Rev. Thomas D. and Mary (Spry) Howe, whose last days were spent at Uniopolis. The Rev. Thomas D. Howe was a minister of the Methodist church, a native of Bainbridge, in Ross county, this state, who in his itinerary many years ago was assigned to the circuit in which Uniopolis then was located. During the time of his service there he became so deeply attached to that community that upon his retirement from the ministry he returned there and in that pleasant village spent his last days. He and his wife were the parents of five children, the subject of this memorial sketch having had a sister, Lucinda, and three brothers, Newton, Elbert and Harry. The late John W. Howe was the eldest of these children and his schooling was received in the several towns in which his father served as minister during the period of his school days, and he early prepared himself to teach school. It was thus

that he became a resident of Uniopolis, for it was while he was engaged as a teacher in the schools of that village that he married and established his home there, becoming the owner of a farm of eighty acres at the headwaters of Huffmans creek just at the southeast edge of the village. He carried on his profession as a teacher for some years, meanwhile developing and improving his farm, and on that place spent the rest of his life, a useful and influential resident of that community, his death occurring there on July 1, 1922. Mr. Howe was a Democrat and ever took an interested part in the general civic affairs of the community in which he lived. Along in the '80s he served for some years as clerk of the township, for nine years he served as local school examiner and also for some years as justice of the peace in and for his home township. John W. Howe was twice married. His first wife, who was Rachel Rinehart, a daughter of Hugh T. and Jemima (Godfrey) Rinehart, died leaving three children, Effie, Thomas T. and Bert, and on August 19, 1883, he married Melvina Hester, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, and to this union were born three children, W. Ray, Alfred T. and Carl T., the first named of whom is unmarried. Alfred T. Howe married Goldie Morrison and has one child, a son, Reginald. Carl T. Howe married Norma Blank and has two children, Donald and Rebecca. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Howe has continued to make her home at Uniopolis, where she is very comfortably situated. She is a member of the Church of the Disciples of Christ. Mrs. Howe was born in Union township and is a daughter of Daniel and Rachel (Woolery) Hester, members of pioneer families in this county, the Hesters having been represented here since the coming of the family here from Greene county, Ohio, in 1832, the year in which the Indians were moved West. They came to Ohio from Virginia.

CHARLES L. HUNTER, former postmaster at St. Marys and formerly and for years actively engaged in newspaper work in that city, one of the best known newspaper men in western Ohio, was born at St. Marys and has lived there all his life. Mr. Hunter was born on January 6, 1869, and is a son of Anderson R. and Julia A. (Emerick) Hunter, both also natives of Ohio, the latter born in Mercer county on May 25, 1844, and both of whom are now deceased. Anderson R. Hunter was born in Stark county, this state, August 29, 1824, and in the days of his young manhood located at St. Marys, where after his marriage he established his home and spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in June, 1892. His widow survived him until October 25, 1918. Anderson R. Hunter was for many years widely known hereabout as a buyer of live stock and he also was engaged in the retail meat business at St. Marys. To him and his wife were born eleven children, all of whom are living save four, three who died in infancy and Anderson R. Hunter, Jr., who died at

the age of fifty-two years, the subject of this sketch having one sister, Mrs. D. E. Howe, and five brothers, James, John, Norville C., Russell A. and Wilbur S. Hunter, living. Reared at St. Marys, Charles L. Hunter received his schooling in the excellent schools of that city and when eighteen years of age, in 1887, entered upon his career as a newspaper man and general printer, a vocation he followed until the time of his appointment in March, 1914, to the position of postmaster at St. Marys, which position he occupied until the expiration of his commission on February 1, 1923. Upon entering the newspaper office at St. Marys back in the '80s Mr. Hunter started in with the determination to learn all departments of the business and he thus became an all around newspaper man, familiar with all details of the craft from the "case" up, and was general manager of the *Daily Leader* at the time of his appointment to the postoffice. Mr. Hunter's service in this latter capacity covered the period of national stress during the time of this country's participation in the World war, when many new and onerous duties were being laid on postmasters in connection with the administration of local war activities, and it is needless to say that in the discharge of these duties he was proved in every way equal to the emergency. He also served as a director of the local Community Welfare Association, an organization growing out of war needs, and in that capacity rendered equally valuable service to the community of which he is so vital a part. Mr. Hunter is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce and has for many years been recognized as one of the most potent factors in the development of the commercial and industrial activities of his home town. He is a 32 degree Mason, affiliated with the consistory at Dayton and with the blue lodge, the chapter and council of the Masonic bodies at St. Marys, and is also a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. For some years he has been the secretary of the local Masonic bodies. On July 4, 1891, Charles L. Hunter was united in marriage to Matilda Caldwell, who was also born in this county, daughter of Ephraim and Matilda (Boltz) Caldwell, and to this union have been born four children, all of whom are living save Hannah, who died in March, 1910, the others being two daughters, Julia M. and Helen Marie, and a son, Robert G., who married Vivien Clark, of Wapakoneta, and has one child, a son, Charles C., born on December 23, 1918. Robert G. Hunter is a machinist operator in the office of the *Daily Leader* at St. Marys, having charge of the linotype machines. The Misses Julia M. and Helen Marie Hunter have for some years past been engaged in Chautauqua work, directors for the Ellison-White Company of Portland, Oregon, and in this capacity have appeared in all the important towns in the West. Both young ladies were graduated from the St. Marys high school and Julia M. Hunter supplemented the training there received by a course in the Columbia School of Expression.

HENRY W. OELRICH, former ditch supervisor for Washington township and a well known farmer and landowner of that township, proprietor of a well kept place on the outskirts of New Knoxville besides other lands in the township, was born in Washington township and has lived there all his life save for a period of several years when he was trying out conditions in South Dakota. Mr. Oelrich was born on a farm in the New Knoxville neighborhood, in section 16 of Washington township, this county, February 19, 1866, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Peterjohann) Oelrich, natives of Germany, who had come up here from Cincinnati, where Henry Oelrich had been engaged in working at his trade as a chairmaker after coming to this country, and had bought a tract of fifty-two acres northwest of New Knoxville. There he lived for several years and then he bought a tract of 160 acres of uncleared land along the creek in section 16 of Washington township, where he settled down to the hard task of clearing the place and making a farm out of it and where he spent the remainder of his life. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom six are still living, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Dina, Christina, Anna and Mary, and a brother, Fred Oelrich. Reared on the home farm there along the creek a couple of miles northeast of New Knoxville, Henry W. Oelrich received his schooling in the local schools and as a young man continued farming on the home place, where he was thus actively engaged for fifteen years, at the end of which time he went to South Dakota with a view to prospecting about a bit with the possibility in mind of locating there if conditions proved to his liking. Mr. Oelrich in addition to his training as a farmer also had become a competent carpenter and upon his arrival in South Dakota began working there as a builder. For three or four years he remained there and then decided that Auglaize county after all was about the best place in the world and he returned here and bought the tract of thirteen acres on which he is now living in the immediate vicinity of New Knoxville and has since resided there. Upon taking that place Mr. Oelrich erected a substantial dwelling house there and he and his family are very comfortably situated. In addition to this tract he has a well improved farm of 100 acres in section 16, which he rents out. Mr. Oelrich has long taken an active interest in local civic affairs and for three years served the public as supervisor of ditches in his home township. In his political leanings he is inclined to "independence" of mere party ties. Henry W. Oelrich married Sophia Hinze, daughter of William Hinze and also a member of one of the old families of this county, and to this union have been born five children, William, Huldah, Florence, Alfred and Esther, the two elder of whom are married. William Oelrich married Ella Kuck and has one child, a daughter, Catherine, and Huldah

Oelrich married R. B. Meckstroth and has one child, a son, Donald. The Oelrichs are members of the Reformed church at New Knoxville and Mr. Oelrich has served the congregation of that flourishing church as a deacon.

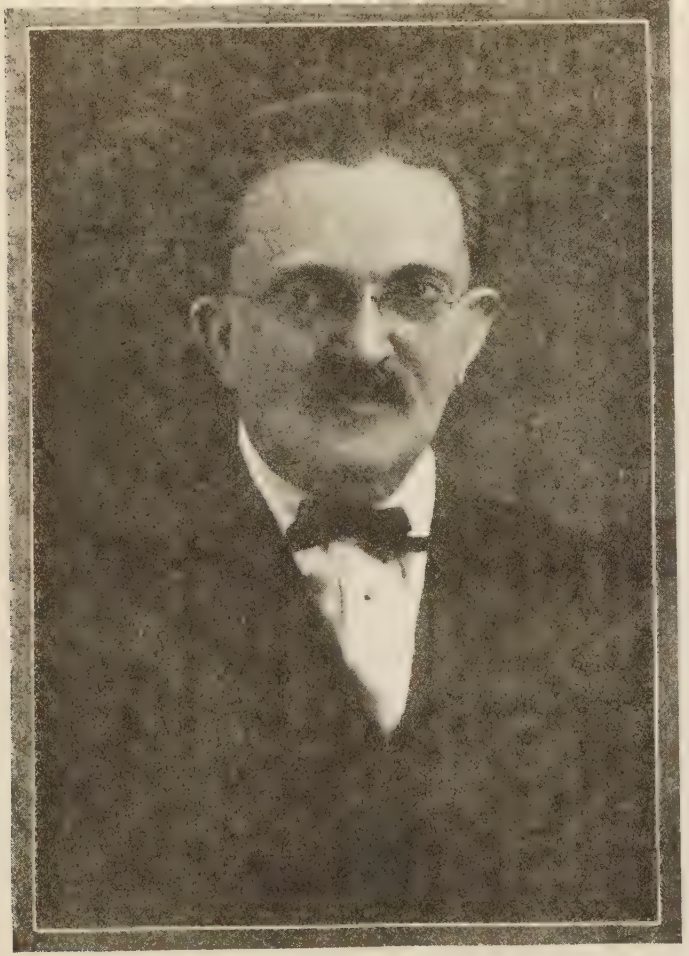
JOHN A. RITCHIE, one of the well known farmers and landowners of Duchouquet township and proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 4 out of Wapakoneta, was born in that township and has lived there all his life, a period of more than sixty-five years. Mr. Ritchie was born on September 13, 1857, and is a son of Adam and Nancy (Sprague) Ritchie, who in their generation were among the best known and most influential residents of that neighborhood, the latter a member of the pioneer Sprague family which settled here about the time the Indians were leaving in the early '30s of the past century. Adam Ritchie was a Virginian by birth, born in Rockingham county in the Old Dominion, and there grew to manhood. Upon seeking a location in which to start out "on his own" he came over here into western Ohio and entered from the Government a tract of land here in the woods, in the north half of section 8 of Duchouquet township, and there established his home and settled down to the difficult task of making a farm out of his place. In this task he succeeded and as his affairs prospered added to his holdings until he became the owner of an excellent farm of 160 acres, and on that place spent his last days, he being eighty-four years of age at the time of his death. Adam Ritchie was twice married. His first wife, who in the early days was lovingly called "Aunt Polly" and whom he married before leaving Virginia, died a few months after coming out here into the wilderness and he then married Nancy Sprague, a daughter of Samuel Sprague, one of the pioneers of this region. To this latter union were born four children, two of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Elizabeth. There was another son, Jacob Ritchie, and another daughter, Irene, both now deceased. Reared on the home farm there four miles north of Wapakoneta, John A. Ritchie received his schooling in the district school house just west of his home and remained with his father until his marriage at the age of twenty-one, when he rented a farm in the neighborhood and began farming on his own account. Two years later he bought a tract of eighty acres in that same neighborhood, a part of the place on which he is now living, and has since made his home there. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Ritchie has made many substantial improvements and has a well equipped farm plant. He also has increased his holdings until now he owns a fine farm of 189 acres. Mr. Ritchie is an active member of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry at Buckland and has for years taken an interested part in the activities of that body. He and his wife are members of the Christian church

and are Republicans. It was on September 19, 1878, that John A. Ritchie was united in marriage to Mollie Romshe, also a member of one of the old families of Auglaize county. Mrs. Ritchie was born on a farm in the northwest quarter of section 6 of Duchouquet township and grew to womanhood there, about a mile northwest of the Adam Ritchie farm, she and her husband thus having been schoolmates and friends from the days of their childhood. She is a daughter of George and Mary (McClintock) Romshe and both the Romshes and the McClintocks were among the pioneers of that part of the county and influential in the days of the development of that region.

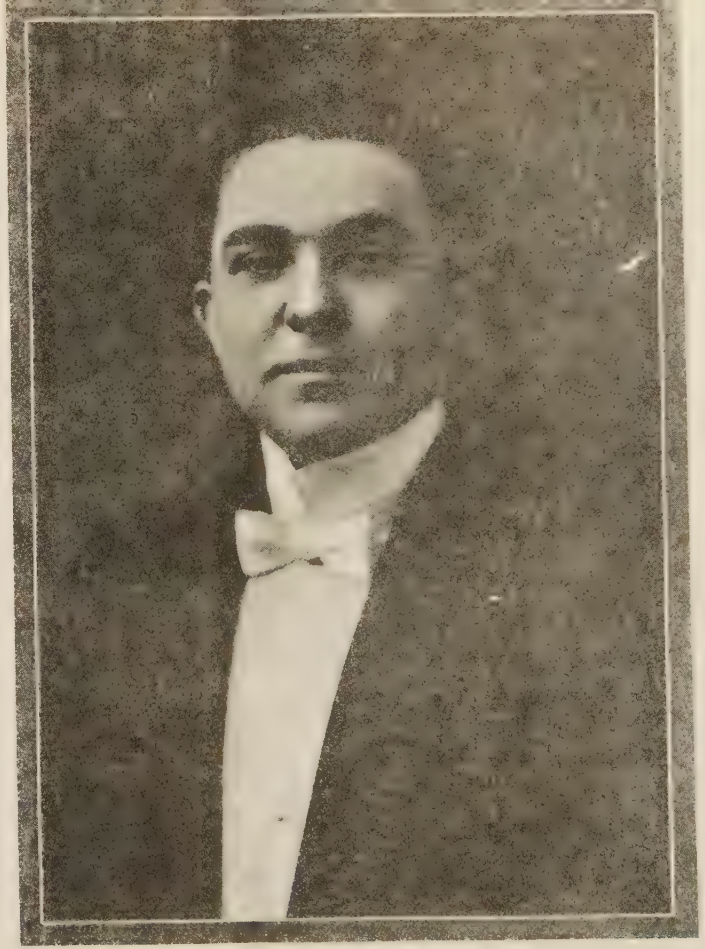
J. EDWARD KOVERMAN, one of Jackson township's well known farmers and landowners, proprietor of a well improved farm about a mile east of Minster, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. Mr. Koverman was born on March 19, 1866, and is a son of Conrad and Johanna (Graff) Koverman, both of whom were born in Germany but whose last days were spent in this county. Conrad Koverman came to America as a young man and located in New York city, where he became associated with a kinsman in the manufacture of playing cards. His health presently failed him and he was advised to get out in the open. He thus decided to get a bit of land and begin farming. Through one of his acquaintances out here in Ohio he was induced to come to Auglaize county and after his arrival here became so much impressed with the possibilities that awaited the settlers here that he bought a tract of eighty acres in section 36 of Jackson township, in the southeast corner of the township, a mile or more east of Minster, and there established his home, he and his wife spending the rest of their lives there, useful and influential pioneers of that neighborhood. They were the parents of ten children, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Alvina, Sophia and Elizabeth, and six brothers, John, Frederick, Henry, William, Bernard and Casper Koverman. Reared on the home farm, where he was born, J. Edward Koverman received his schooling in the schools at Minster and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the home farm, and has thus been engaged in farming there all his life, having established his home on that place after his marriage. Upon the death of their father he and his brother Henry Koverman took over the operation of the home place and have since been thus engaged in partnership. They have made many substantial improvements on the place and have a well equipped farm plant. In addition to his interest in this farm J. Edward Koverman has a tract of forty acres of his own, which he also is farming, and is doing well in his operations. He is a Democrat and for sixteen years served his local district as supervisor of roads there. J. Edward Koverman married Mary Meyer, daughter of Henry and Christina (Swenser) Meyer, and to this union have been born nine chil-

dren, John, Bernardine, Anna, Rose, Bernard, Andrew, Margaret, Louis and Herman, all of whom are unmarried and at home. The Kovermans have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Minster. They are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster, and Mr. Koverman also is a member of the St. Augustine Orphans Society.

DR. RUDOLPH A. RULMANN, former president of the Auglaize County Medical Society, former president of the local school board at Minster, a former member of the town council and in other ways active and helpful in public service there, a practicing physician of more than forty years standing in that community, and thus one of the best known physicians in this section of northwestern Ohio, is a European by birth, but has been a resident of this country since the days of his boyhood, and is thus as much an American at heart as though "native and to the manner born." Doctor Rulmann was born in the former Kingdom of Westphalia, now a province of Prussia, lying between Holland, Hanover, Brunswick, Hesse-Nassau and the Rhine Province, January 19, 1860, and is a son of Herman B. and Augusta (Mueller) Rulmann, also Westphalians, of pure German descent, whose last days were spent in this country, of which they became residents in the '60s of the past century. The late Herman B. Rulmann, formerly and for years a well-known miller at Minster, was trained as a miller in his home country and after his marriage there became established in the milling business. He continued thus engaged in Westphalia until in 1865, when he became attracted to the opportunities then awaiting newcomers on the other side of the Atlantic and came to the United States with a view to establishing himself in the milling business in this country. Leaving his family behind, pending the result of his prospecting trip, he spent some time looking around in the vicinity of Cincinnati and presently found the site he was looking for at Reading, about ten miles north of Cincinnati, in Hamilton county, this state. Then he sent for his family, and in 1869 his wife and son came over, arriving at the port of Baltimore on July 4 of that year. Doctor Rulmann was then but a lad, less than ten years of age, and his first sight of the city of Baltimore, decked out with the colors appropriate to the observance of the national holiday, and the enthusiasm of the people in their celebration of America's natal day, created an impression upon his youthful mind which never has been effaced. From that moment he was an American, eager and willing to cast in his lot with that of the people whose country his parents had gladly adopted for their new home. The Rulmann family remained in Hamilton county for two or three years and then moved over into the neighboring county of Franklin, in Indiana, and settled at Oldenburg, in that county, where Herman B. Rulmann became engaged in the mill-



RUDOLPH A. RULMANN, M. D.



DR. CLARENCE F. RULMANN
(Obit: October 19, 1918)

ing business, and where his wife died in 1875. He presently married Mary Hackman, and in 1888 moved from Indiana back into Ohio and located at Minster, where in the meanwhile his son, the Doctor, had become engaged in practice, there became engaged in the milling business, head of the Rulmann Milling Company, and so continued the remainder of his life, his death occurring at Minster on January 9, 1906. Doctor Rulmann, as noted above, was nine years of age when he came to America, was about twelve when the family moved to Oldenburg, Ind., and was fifteen years of age when his mother died. He completed the course in the local schools at Oldenburg, and in 1874, at the age of fourteen, was placed in St. Francis College, where he spent two years, at the end of which time, in 1876, he began reading medicine under the preceptorship of Doctor Averdick at Oldenburg. In the fall of the following year (1877) he matriculated at the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati, and on March 1, 1881, was graduated from that institution. During the course of his medical studies Doctor Rulmann had been casting about for a location when he should be equipped for practice and he had decided upon Minster as a likely place for a young physician. He lost little time in getting located after he had received his diploma, and on April 22 following his graduation opened his office at Minster, where he ever since has been engaged in practice. Recognizing upon his arrival there the need of a first-class drug store in the town, Doctor Rulmann opened a drug store in the same year in which he became engaged in practice. After his father became engaged in the milling business at Minster he became secretary and treasurer of the Rulmann Milling Company and was for years thus engaged, in addition to his other interests. Twenty years and more ago Doctor Rulmann was appointed health officer for that community, and in that capacity, in which he served for years, did much to bring about proper standards of sanitation and hygiene. He also has rendered efficient public service in other ways, for six years was president of the local school board, served for some time as a member of the town council, and has for years been looked upon as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in that part of the county. The Doctor is a member of the American Medical Association, of the Ohio State Medical Society and of the Auglaize County Medical Society, of which latter body he served as president for two years, and has ever taken an active interest in the deliberations of these bodies. He and his wife are members of St. Augustine's Catholic church at Minster and have ever taken a proper interest in parish affairs, the Doctor being a member of the St. Boniface Benevolent Society, the society for the amelioration of the condition of orphans, and similar organizations of the parish. He is a member of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. Dr. R. A. Rulmann has been twice

married. In 1881, the year in which he became engaged in practice at Minster, he was united in marriage to Isabel Schmieder, daughter of Dr. John P. Schmieder, of Minster, for years one of the leading citizens of this county, who had located at Minster in 1846, had served as mayor of that town and in other ways had been influential in directing the affairs of the community, and who died in 1887 while serving his second term as state senator from this district. To that union were born two sons, Albert H. and John P., the latter of whom died in his youth. Albert P. Rulmann, who is living at Flint, Mich., married Eleanor Goeke and has one child, a son, Leroy. Mrs. Isabel Rulmann died on February 19, 1886, and in 1888 Doctor Rulmann married Josephine M. Vogelsang, daughter of Frederick and Elizabeth Vogelsang, of Minster. To this union four sons have been born, Clarence F., Herbert, Oscar and Leroy, all of whom are living save the first named, who died on October 19, 1918, thus bringing to an early close what gave promise of being a useful medical career. The late Dr. Clarence F. Rulmann was prepared for medical college under the able preceptorship of his father and was in due time graduated from the medical school of Ohio State University and became engaged in practice, which he followed until his untimely death. He married Elizabeth Hinders, who, with their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, survives. Doctor Rulmann's other sons also are all married. Herbert Rulmann married Luetta Vallo. Oscar Rulmann married Theresa Boerger and has one child, a daughter, Martha, and Leroy Rulmann married Deloris Schulte and has one child, a son, Rudolph A., named in honor of his grandfather, the Doctor.

ALLEN FOCHT, a former trustee of Union township and one of the best known of the older farmers and landowners of the Uniopolis neighborhood, was born on the farm on which he is now living, just east of Uniopolis, and has lived there all his life, a member of one of the real pioneer families of that part of the county. Mr. Focht was born on March 5, 1853, and is a son of Samuel and Louisa (Justice) Focht, the latter of whom was a daughter of Allen Justice, who had entered his land in section 15 of Union township in 1835, three years after the Indians had departed from this region. Samuel Focht, who was one of the early commissioners of Auglaize county and in his generation a man of force and influence in this community, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, in 1812, and was a son of Adam Focht, also a Pennsylvanian, who in 1836 came to Ohio and settled on a woodland tract which he had acquired in section 14 of Union township, which then was included within the confines of Allen county, Auglaize county not having been organized until twelve years later. Adam Focht had ten children, Samuel, Daniel, Lewis, Adam, John, William, Jacob, Susan, Mary and Matilda, and the Focht connection of this line in the present generation is an extensive

one. He established his home on that woodland tract, with the aid of his sons developed a good farm there, and there spent his last days, his death occurring in 1853. Samuel Focht, the eldest of these seven sons, was the "pathfinder" in the family's migration to this part of Ohio. When about twenty-three years of age he came over here into western Ohio, looking about for a desirable place of settlement in the new lands country hereabout, and became attracted to the possibilities which awaited settlers in Union township. He first bought the tract on which his son, Allen, is now living, and later bought an "eighty" in the north half of section 20, just southeast of where Uniopolis later was laid out, and his father then disposed of the family interests in Pennsylvania and came out here into the then wilderness with his family, prepared to make a new start. It was thus that the Fochts came to be numbered among the pioneers of this region, and the family is still widely represented hereabout. Samuel Focht was a man of initiative and enterprise, and not only succeeded in making a good farm out of the place on which he had settled there along the creek, but he likewise succeeded in impressing his personality upon his pioneer neighbors. He was the second justice of the peace elected in and for Union township, and served for two terms in that magisterial capacity. When in the late '40s the movement for the erection of a new county here was inaugurated he was one of the earnest promoters of that movement, and in 1851, in the second election held in Auglaize county, he was elected to represent his district on the board of county commissioners, receiving 1,368 votes as against 140 for his Whig opponent. By re-election he served for six years on the board of county commissioners, and thus was a strong force in bringing about proper civil conditions in the county's formative period. In 1864 he was elected a member of the board of infirmary directors, and for twelve years thereafter was kept in that office. In other ways he did well his part in the community, nor was he unmindful of his own personal affairs, for he increased his land holdings around his original eighty to more than 200 acres and had one of the best farms in the neighborhood. He died on January 7, 1895, in the eighty-third year of his age. Samuel Focht was twice married, and by his first wife, Mary Bethers, was the father of four children, two of whom, William and Sarah, are still living, the deceased members of this family having been Daniel and Matilda. By his union with Louisa Justice he was the father of four children, all of whom are living save one son, Adam, the others besides the subject of this sketch being a daughter, Mary, and a son, Louis Focht. Reared on the farm on which he was born and where he is now living, Allen Focht received his schooling in the Uniopolis schools, and from the days of his boyhood has been attentive to the affairs of the farm. After his marriage he rented

a portion of the home acres and continued to make his home there, later buying 120 acres of his father's tract, and his father gave him forty acres, this giving him a total of 160 acres, which he still owns, although for some time he has lived on the place practically retired from the active labors of the farm, renting his fields. Mr. Focht is a Democrat, as was his father, and has rendered public service—for several terms a member of the board of township trustees, and also for some years as a member of the school board. He has a pleasant home there on rural mail route No. 6 out of Wapakoneta, and he and his family are quite comfortably situated. Allen Focht has been twice married. On November 29, 1872, he was united in marriage to Rebecca Blank, also a member of one of the pioneer families of Union township, and to that union were born five children, all of whom are living save one son (Charles), the others being Louetta, Dora, Emma and Elmer, the last named of whom is unmarried and is now living in Idaho. Louetta Focht married Elmer Shaw and has one son, Neal Shaw. Dora Focht married Samuel Sibert and has four children, Bonnie, Calvin, Lyman and Minor. Bonnie Sibert married Frank Werner and has a son, Joseph Franklin. Calvin Sibert married Pauline Brantz and has a daughter, Dorothy. Emma Focht married Floyd Gesler and has three children, Joy, Richard and Edith. Joy Gesler married Earl Bondurant and has a son, Donald. On October 13, 1887, Mr. Focht married Catherine Bitler, daughter of Daniel and Angeline (Seiwell) Bitler, also members of old families in this county, and to this union four children have been born, Nova, Hazel, Dalles and Dewey, all of whom are living save the last named, who died in childhood. Dalles Focht is a veteran of the World war, having rendered service in the Ordnance Corps, eleven months of which service was rendered overseas. Nova Focht married Robert Hegele, a veteran of the World war, and is now living at Piqua. Hazel Focht married Walter Chenowith, also a World war veteran, and is now living in Allen county.

ELI RAMGE, a member of one of the pioneer families of Auglaize county and a well-known farmer and landowner of Duchouquet township, proprietor of a well-improved farm on rural mail route No. 4 out of Wapakoneta, was born on a farm one and one-half miles west of Wapakoneta on March 20, 1866, and is a son of Henry and Mary (Burk) Ramge, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that neighborhood, the Ramges and the Burks having been among the early settlers there. The late Henry Ramge was a son of Philip Ramge, a native of Germany, who had come to this part of Ohio not long after his arrival in this country and had taken up a forty-acre tract in Duchouquet township, two miles east of Wapakoneta, where he established his home and spent the remainder of his life. On that pioneer farm Henry Ramge grew to manhood.

After his marriage to Mary Burk, one of the neighbor girls, he began farming on his own account on a rented farm, but a few years later bought a farm along the river across from Greenlawn cemetery, west of Wapakoneta, where he continued farming for forty-six years, at the end of which time he moved to Wapakoneta, where he bought property and spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1916. Of the children born to him and his wife six are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Catherine and Anna, and three brothers, Christian F., Charles and John Ramge. Eli Ramge received his schooling in the Wapakoneta schools, and as a young man gave his attention to the home farm west of town. Twelve years after his marriage he bought a tract of eighty acres in Duchouquet township, the place on which he is now living, and has since resided there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of that place, which was not wholly cleared when he bought it, Mr. Ramge has cleared about twenty acres and has made numerous substantial improvements on the place, including the erection of a new barn. He also has increased his land holdings by the purchase of an adjoining "eighty," and now has an excellent farm of 160 acres. In addition to his general farming, he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. It was on March 6, 1895, that Eli Ramge was united in marriage to Amanda Falker, who also was born in this county, daughter of Henry and Mary (Stalder) Falker, and to this union three children have been born, Edna, Harry and Edith. Edna Ramge married Roy Shively, and has three children, Juanita, Marjory and Betty Lucile. Mr. and Mrs. Ramge are members of Grace Lutheran church and are Republicans.

EDWARD F. REICHELDERFER, president of the Home Bank of Cridersville, proprietor of the grain elevator and lumber yard in that town, for thirty years past the treasurer of the Cridersville town corporation, one of the large landowners of Auglaize county, and in other ways actively identified with the general interests of this community, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the real pioneer families of this part of the state, and has lived here all his life. Mr. Reichelderfer was born on a farm just west of the village of Cridersville on November 9, 1867, and is a son of John and Susan (Crider) Reichelderfer, both of whom were born in that same vicinity, the latter a daughter of Ephraim Crider, the pioneer miller and founder of the town of Cridersville, who platted the town site there in the spring of 1856, following the survey of the railroad through this section of the state, the first railroad to enter Auglaize county. The late John Reichelderfer, a veteran of the Civil war and former county commissioner, was born on March 31, 1841, and was a son of William Reichelderfer, the pioneer, who in 1837 had entered an "eighty" in the west half of the northeast quarter of section 34

of township 4, range 6 east, then a part of Allen county, now included in the civil township of Duchouquet, in Auglaize county, just west of the present town of Cridersville, on the Allen-Auglaize county line, and had become one of the most useful and influential pioneers of that community. William Reichelderfer developed a good farm there in the then timber wilderness and became the owner of a quarter of a section of land. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, and the Reichelderfer connection hereabout in the present generation is a no inconsiderable one. John Reichelderfer was reared on that pioneer farm and was twenty years of age when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company G of the 81st regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which gallant command he served until mustered out on July 20, 1865, the war then being over. During this term of service Mr. Reichelderfer participated in the Atlanta campaign and in some of the important engagements of the war. Upon the completion of his military service he returned home and not long afterward married and began farming on his own account. He was a successful farmer and became the owner of 260 acres of land in the Cridersville neighborhood. In 1890, in association with his son (the subject of this sketch), he became engaged in the grain business at Cridersville, erecting an elevator there, and continued thus engaged the remainder of his life, his death occurring on December 20, 1904. He also was one of the organizers of the Home Bank of Cridersville, established in 1903, was the first president of that institution, and at his death was succeeded by his son, the present president of the bank. He was for many years recognized as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in that part of the county, served his township in various public capacities, first as constable and then as a township trustee, in which latter capacity he served for seven years, and for two terms (1884-90) rendered valuable service to the county at large as a member of the board of county commissioners. John Reichelderfer was twice married, and by his union with Susan Crider was the father of two children, one son, the subject of this sketch, and a daughter, Celesta, who married John Danner. The mother of these children died in 1884, and Mr. Reichelderfer married Sophia Danner, who survived him. Edward F. Reichelderfer was reared on the home farm near Cridersville and his schooling was completed in the Cridersville schools. As a young man he became engaged in the livery business at Cridersville and was thus engaged for something more than three years, or until 1890, when he became associated with his father in the grain business at Cridersville, a mutually agreeable association which continued until his father's death in 1904, since which time he has carried on the business alone. In 1907 he added to this enter-

prise a general line of lumber and builders' supplies and established a coal yard in connection with the same, his elevator and lumber and coal yards constituting one of the leading industries of the town. Upon the death of his father, Mr. Reichelderfer also succeeded to the presidency of the Home Bank of Cridersville and has since been at the head of that institution, one of the best known bankers hereabout. He has maintained and extended his land interests and is the owner of 500 acres of farm lands in this and Allen counties. He also is a member of the board of directors of the Lima Coal Company of Lima and has other interests, the direction of which makes him one of the really busy men of this county. Mr. Reichelderfer is a Democrat and for the past thirty years has been serving as treasurer of the Cridersville town corporation. He and his family are members of St. Matthew's Lutheran church at Cridersville, and for the past twenty years or more he has been a member of the board of trustees of that congregation. It was in 1890 that E. F. Reichelderfer was united in marriage to Rosa DeLong, also a member of one of the pioneer families of the Cridersville neighborhood, daughter of Ezra and Lydia (Fetherolf) DeLong, and to this union three children have been born, Lela, Chester and Vera, the latter of whom is the wife of Clayton Graham, of Lima. Lela Reichelderfer married Clarence Wheeler, of Toledo, and Chester Reichelderfer is at home, a valued assistant to his father in the latter's various business enterprises. The Reichelderfers have a very pleasant home at Cridersville.

WILLIAM MOYER, a well-known farmer and landowner of Union township, is of English birth, but has been a resident of this country and of Auglaize county since the days of his youth, a period of nearly seventy-five years. Mr. Moyer was born in Lincolnshire, England, August 6, 1849, and was seven years old when, in 1856, he came to this country with his parents, Jeremiah and Maria (Farris) Moyer, the family landing at the port of New York on Christmas Day of that year. As is set out elsewhere in this volume, Jeremiah Moyer's objective upon coming to this country was the hard-timber region out here in western Ohio, and upon his arrival he lost little time in coming here with his family. He settled on a tract of thirty acres in the northwestern part of Wayne township which had been left to him by the death of his brother, John, and there established his home, later increasing his holdings to an "eighty," and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, his death occurring in 1880, and hers in 1903. When they came to America they had five children, Thomas, John, William, Mary A. and Elizabeth, and two others, Jeremiah and George, were born after their arrival here. Of these children all are living save George and Elizabeth, and the Moyer family of this line in the present

generation is a no inconsiderable one. As noted above, William Moyer was but a lad of seven when he came to this country with his parents in 1856, and he grew to manhood on the pioneer home farm there near the headwaters of the Auglaize, in Wayne township, completing his schooling in the neighborhood schools. He was early trained in the ways of practical farming, and after leaving the home place bought an eighty-acre farm in Union township, where he since has made his home, he and his family being very comfortably situated. William Moyer married Lavina (Harbison) Kerr, a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, daughter of David and Elizabeth (Saggesser) Harbison. Mr. and Mrs. Moyer have a daughter, Edith. Mr. Moyer is a Republican and is a member of the Masonic lodge at Waynesfield. The Moyer home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 6 out of Wapakoneta.

FRED A. ACCUNTIUS, superintendent of the Auglaize county infirmary and one of the best known men in the county, was born on a farm in the western part of Clay township and has been a resident of this county all his life, with the exception of a period of three years spent in the West during his young manhood. Mr. Accuntius was born on April 26, 1888, and is a son of Adam and Cardine (Gross) Accuntius, both of whom also were born in Ohio and who are now living retired at Geyer village. Adam Accuntius was born in the neighboring county of Shelby, where he was reared and where he was living when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and served as a soldier for three years and three months, a member of Company M, 1st Ohio Light Artillery, going into service in September, 1861. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Accuntius returned home and presently was married in his home county to Cardine Gross, who also was born in Shelby county. Not long after his marriage he came up into Auglaize county and bought a "forty" in the northeast quarter of section 19 of Clay township, where he established his home. Mr. Accuntius was a good farmer and before very long added to his holdings there an adjoining "forty." He continued to increase his land holdings as the years passed and as his affairs prospered until he became the owner of more than 600 acres of land in this county and continued actively engaged in farming until his retirement and removal to the village of Geyer, where he is now living, having sold his land, and is devoting his attention to other forms of investment. To Adam Accuntius and wife were born fourteen children, all of whom are living save two—John and Michael—the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being George, William, Henry, Louis, Charles, Mattie, Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth, Caroline and Anna. Reared on the home farm in Clay township, Fred A. Accuntius received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and as a young man

FRED A. ACCUNTIUS AND FAMILY

went West with a view to possible location, but after three years of prospecting along several lines out that way returned to Auglaize county and was shortly afterward married here. He then rented a bit of land from his father and started in farming in Clay township. When his father sold his farm, Fred Accuntius moved to Wapakoneta, where he made his home for four years, at the end of which time he resumed farming, taking hold of a farm in Moulton township. A year later he moved to a farm in Duchouquet township and was there engaged in farming for three years, or until on March 1, 1922, when he entered upon his present duties as superintendent of the Auglaize county infirmary, located in that township, and is thus serving now in that capacity, under appointment of the board of county commissioners. Fred A. Accuntius married Zelma Shadrach, daughter of John and Cornelia (Taylor) Shadrach. He and his wife have adopted a son, Fred. Mr. Accuntius is a member of the local lodges of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and of the Loyal Order of Moose at Wapakoneta, and is also affiliated with the Swabian Society of that city. Auglaize county has one of the best equipped county infirmaries in northwestern Ohio, and its present superintendent is giving his whole attention to the operation of the institution, with a desire constantly to better conditions along all lines there.

EDWARD J. DIEGEL, one of the well known and progressive farmers of Washington township and proprietor in association with his brothers of a well improved farm west of Owl Creek about five miles southwest of Wapakoneta, was born on a farm in St. Marys township, this county, on January 29, 1871, and is a son of Jacob and Sarah (Roberts) Diegel, the latter of whom was a daughter of Jesse Roberts, who had settled in section 13 of Washington township in 1836, establishing his home there along the banks of Owl creek and becoming one of the substantial pioneers of that community. Jesse Roberts was born in the vicinity of Xenia, in Greene county, this state, in 1811, and upon coming up into this part of the state entered a quarter of a section of land from the Government. In addition to his farming operations he also became widely known as a manufacturer of plows throughout that neighborhood and also carried on a cabinet making business, thus making many of the coffins used thereabout in pioneer days. He was a man of industry and good management and at the time of his death in 1874 was the owner of no less than 640 acres in this county. Reared on the farm, Edward J. Diegel received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, both in St. Marys and in Washington townships, and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to farming. He remained on the home place, helpful in the labors of developing and improving the same, until his marriage when he established his home on the farm on which he is now living, a 100-acre tract of

the old Jesse Roberts estate, which had come to him and his brothers by inheritance, and has since resided there, carrying on the operations of the farm, with the expectation eventually of purchasing the respective interests of his brothers in the place. He has kept up the repairs on the place and has a well equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Diegel gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. He and his wife are members of the Hope Evangelical church and are Republicans. It was on January 1, 1906, that Edward J. Diegel was united in marriage to Matilda Smith, who was born and reared in the adjoining county of Mercer, a daughter of William and Caroline (Meyers) Smith, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Russell T. Diegel, born on November 7, 1911, who is now a student in the Owl Creek school. The Diegels have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Wapakoneta.

GEORGE C. THIELK, a well-known farmer and substantial landowner in the western part of Washington township, proprietor of a well-improved place on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, was born in that township and has lived there all his life. Mr. Thielk was born on November 7, 1875, and is a son of John and Julia (Stroh) Thielk, the latter of whom was born in that same township, a member of one of the pioneer families of the New Knoxville neighborhood. The late John Thielk was born in Germany and was twelve years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family for some time after their arrival here making their home at Dayton, Ohio. They came up here into Auglaize county and settled on a woodland farm along the creek in section 18 of Washington township, about a mile and a half north of New Knoxville, and it was on this pioneer farm that John Thielk grew to manhood. After his marriage he bought an adjoining tract of seventy-five acres, there along the creek, the place on which his son, George, is now living, and there spent the remainder of his life, a successful farmer. After clearing his original tract and getting it ready for cultivation he bought other land and at the time of his death was the owner of a fine farm of 200 acres. He and his wife were members of Zion's Lutheran church at St. Marys and he had served the congregation of that church as a trustee and as an elder. He also had rendered public service as a member of the school board. To him and his wife were born five children, all of whom are living save two, William and Mary, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Anna, and a brother, Edward Thielk. Reared on the home farm in Washington township, George C. Thielk received his schooling in the nearby district school (district No. 4) and from the days of his boyhood has been attentive to the affairs of the farm. He continued farming with his father until the latter's

death and then he took over the home place of 120 acres and has since resided there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Since coming into possession of this place, Mr. Thielk has made numerous substantial improvements and has a well equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming he has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, with particular reference to pure bred Duroc hogs and Shorthorn cattle, and is doing well. In his political views, Mr. Thielk is a Democrat. George Thielk married Sarah Kuck and to this union have been born four children, Ruth, Harold and Rachel and Paul, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Thielk are members of Zion's Lutheran church at St. Marys and for thirteen years Mr. Thielk served the congregation of that church as a deacon. Mrs. Sarah Thielk also was born in Washington township and is a daughter of Gustav and Elizabeth (Storck) Kuck, who later became residents of Van Buren township in the neighboring county of Shelby, where they became well established on a farm. Gustav Kuck and his wife both were natives of Germany. They were married in Cincinnati and not long afterward came up into this part of the state, where they spent the remainder of their lives, both now deceased. They were the parents of six children, four of whom are living, Mrs. Thielk having a sister, Matilda, and two brothers, William and Henry Kuck.

DAVID LANDIS, a veteran of the Civil war and one of Waynesfield's best known octogenarians, a farmer and landowner of this county, now living retired at the village, where he has made his home for the past four or five years, is a "Buckeye" by birth, a native of the neighboring county of Darke, and has been a resident of this state all his life, making his home in Auglaize county since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Landis was born on March 7, 1842, and was fourteen years of age when his parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Rudy) Landis, came up into Auglaize county from Darke county and established their home on an eighty-acre tract in the woods at the headwaters of the Auglaize, in the south half of section 4 of Wayne township. That was in 1856 and much of the country thereabout was still in a pretty wild state. Jacob Landis got his tract cleared and his farm established and then became engaged in the cigar-making business, traveling throughout the West in the sale of cigars, and died in the West while on one of his trips. He and his wife were the parents of twelve children, four of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Sadie, and two brothers, Francis and Jacob Landis. As noted above, David Landis was fourteen years of age when he came here with his parents in 1856, and he grew to manhood on that pioneer farm in the northern part of Wayne township, and was living there when the Civil war broke out. In the spring of 1864 he enlisted in the 100-days service and went

out as a member of Company D of the 151st regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Upon the completion of his term of military service, Mr. Landis returned home and resumed his farming operations, a vocation he followed until his recent retirement. For years he farmed as a laborer, always finding his services in demand, and then he bought the home eighty and started in farming on his own account, continuing thus engaged on that farm until his retirement in 1918 and removal to Waynesfield, where he has since made his home and where he and his wife are quite comfortably and pleasantly situated. Mr. Landis is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local political affairs, but has not been a seeker after public office. On December 25, 1892, David Landis was united in marriage to Sarah Tabler, a daughter of Thomas J. and Frances (Gilmore) Tabler, and to this union two children have been born, a son, Heber (deceased), and a daughter, Mae, who is now engaged as a teacher in the schools of Toledo. During his long and active life Mr. Landis has seen some amazing changes in conditions throughout this part of Ohio and has many interesting stories to tell of pioneer days and of the days of the big timber hereabout.

DITTMAR KNATZ, one of the large landowners of Auglaize county and proprietor of a well-improved farm in the northeast part of Washington township, about three miles southwest of Wapakoneta, was born on that place and has lived there all his life. Mr. Knatz was born on August 1, 1866, and is a son of Conrad and Elizabeth (Filling) Knatz, natives of Germany, who were married in that country. Not long after his marriage, Conrad Knatz came to this country and proceeded on out here into western Ohio, where he worked for some time as a farm hand and then bought an "eighty" in the woods there between Owl creek and Clear creek, in the southwest quarter of section 1 of Washington township, sent back to the old country for his wife, and settled down to make a farm out of his place. He put up a little cabin of a house and started in to clear his land, which he presently got under cultivation. As his affairs prospered, for he was a good farmer, he gradually added to his holdings there until he became the owner of 350 acres and was accounted one of the substantial farmers of that neighborhood. On that place he made his home until his retirement from the farm and removal to Wapakoneta, where his last days were spent. To him and his wife were born seven children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, George Knatz. Reared on the home farm, Dittmar Knatz received his schooling in the local schools, and from the days of his boyhood has been attentive to the affairs of the farm. He continued farming with his father until the time of his marriage, when he took over the operation of 120 acres of the home farm and on that place established his home. Mr. Knatz has

done well in his farming and live stock operations, and during the years in which he has been thus engaged has added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of 600 acres of land in this county, all lying in Washington township save a forty up over the line in Moulton township. On this tract he has four sets of buildings and he continues to give his personal attention to the farm of 225 acres surrounding his home place, which has been improved in admirable fashion, he having a very well-equipped farm plant there. In his political views Mr. Knatz is a Democrat with "independent" leanings. He has ever taken a good citizen's interest in local civic affairs and for about fifteen years served as pike superintendent in his district. He also has rendered service as a school director. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Evangelical church at Wapakoneta. Dittmar Knatz married Agatha Burk, daughter of Erhart Burk, and also a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, and to this union have been born four children, three of whom are living, Clara, Albert and Helena, all married save the latter. Clara Knatz married Edgar Berg and has three children, Edgar, Eldon and Elizabeth, and Albert Knatz married Fredia Henxtler, and has two children, Evan and Vernon. The Knatz home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 2 out of Wapakoneta. Mr. Knatz's paternal grandparents, George and Anna (Ritz) Knatz, were farming people in Germany. The former died at the age of fifty-three years and his widow survived him for twenty years. Their four sons, Conrad and the latter's three brothers, all served in the German army. Conrad Knatz was born on August 11, 1829, and was twenty-four years of age when, in the fall of 1853, he sailed for America, the vessel on which he sailed requiring nine weeks and three days to make the passage from Bremen to New York.

BENJAMIN HEGEMANN, one of the best known residents of Minster, until quite recently manager of the grain elevator of the Farmers Exchange Company at that place, and now manager of the local branch of the Kuenzel Mills Company at Loramie, has been a resident of Minster since the days of his childhood, and his long connection with the grain business has given him a wide acquaintance throughout that part of this county and in adjacent sections of the neighboring counties. Mr. Hegemann was born at Covington, Ky., December 14, 1882, and is a son of August and Anna (Moer) Hegemann, natives of Germany, who later became residents of Minster, and the latter of whom is still living there. The late August Hegemann was a manufacturer of brick and tile in his home country and he remained there until after his marriage, when (in 1881) he came with his wife to America and located at Covington, Ky., where he became employed in the rolling mills. Three years later, in 1884, he moved with his family to Minster, and in that neighborhood be-

came engaged in farming, a vocation he followed much of the time thereafter until his death, though for some time he was connected with the operations of a stave factory. He was the owner of a tract of twenty-five acres in the vicinity of Minster. His death occurred on June 29, 1917. To him and his wife were born four children, two of whom are deceased: Anthony, who died in infancy, and William, who died at the age of twenty years, the survivors being Benjamin Hegemann and his brother, Herbert Hegemann. As will be noted by a comparison of above dates, Benjamin Hegemann was about two years of age when his parents moved to Minster, and he was reared there, receiving his schooling in the local schools. Upon leaving school he worked with his father on the farm for four years and then became employed as an iron molder and worked in the foundry for five years, at the end of which time he became employed in the Wernsing grain elevator and there became familiar with the details of the local grain trade, which later became so important to him when he became engaged in a managerial capacity. Mr. Hegemann remained with the Wernsing elevator for twelve years, or until that concern was sold, and in 1920 he was made manager of the elevator of the Farmers Exchange Company at Minster, a position he occupied until his retirement from that concern in July, 1922. On November 2 following he was made manager of the elevator of the Kuenzel Mills Company at Loramie and is now thus engaged. Mr. Hegemann is an ardent Republican and has ever taken an active interest in the campaigns of that party in this county, for sixteen years a central committeeman and a member of the executive committee. He is a member of St. Augustine's Catholic church and has long been one of the most active workers in the affairs of that parish, advocate of Council No. 2158 of the Knights of Columbus, past president of the Knights of St. John, recording secretary of the St. Boniface Benevolent Society and a member of the St. Augustine Orphans' Society. He also is a past worthy president of the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Minster, and is affiliated with the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. He is an active member of the Minster Commercial Club.

WILLIAM A. FISHER, a well-known farmer and land owner of Pusheta township, a former member of the board of education of that township and proprietor of a well-improved farm on rural mail route No. 5 out of Wapakoneta, was born in Pusheta township and has lived there practically all his life, the exception being a short period during which he was farming in Duchouquet township. Mr. Fisher was born on a farm in the vicinity of where he is now living, about four miles southeast of Wapakoneta, March 11, 1873, and is a son of William H. and Wilhelmina (Veit) Fisher, the latter of whom was born in Clay township, a daughter of Valentine Veit,

one of the pioneers of that township, whose land entered there from the Government in pioneer days is still held in the Veit family. William H. Fisher, a substantial landowner of Pusheta township, now living retired in Wapakoneta, was born in Pusheta township on July 15, 1846, two years before the organization of Auglaize county, and is a son of Blaizie Fisher, who had entered a "forty" in that township and a similar tract in Clay township in pioneer days, these original land holdings still being held in the Fisher family. Reared on the pioneer farm there in Pusheta township, William H. Fisher received his schooling in the old Weimert school house (district No. 1) at the cross roads in the northeast corner of section 11, and after his marriage established his home on a farm in that neighborhood. He was a good farmer and as his affairs prospered added to his holdings until he became the owner of 240 acres in this county, and he continued actively engaged in farming until his retirement and removal to Wapakoneta, where he and his wife are now living. They have thirteen children, the subject of this sketch (the second in order of birth) having seven sisters, Mary, Katie, Minnie, Edith, Cora, Carrie and Alma, and five brothers, Frank, George, John, Ferd and Harry Fisher, all of whom were reared on the home farm and some of whom received their schooling at Wapakoneta. William A. Fisher received his schooling in the Weimert school, which his father had attended and which his children are now attending, and from the days of his boyhood has been attentive to farming. He remained at home farming with his father until his marriage at the age of twenty-three, when he rented an eighty-acre farm from his father and began farming on his own account. For seventeen years he was engaged in farming this place, and then he bought a tract of eighty-seven acres in Duchouquet township. Four months later he sold that place and bought the place of 100 acres on which he is now living, and to which he has added by subsequent purchase an adjoining tract of seventy-one and one-fourth acres, this giving him a fine farm of 171¼ acres, which he has improved in admirable fashion, and on which he is carrying on his operations in accordance with modern methods of agriculture. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Fisher has made numerous improvements, including the remodeling of the buildings and the erection of a silo, and has a well equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming, he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding off about 100 hogs a year, and is doing well. It was on September 15, 1896, that William A. Fisher was united in marriage to Katie Wagner, who also was born in Pusheta township, and to this union have been born six children, of whom three are deceased—Edward, who died on December 31, 1921, and two who died in infancy. The remaining children of this family are Fredonia, Alvena and Frank-

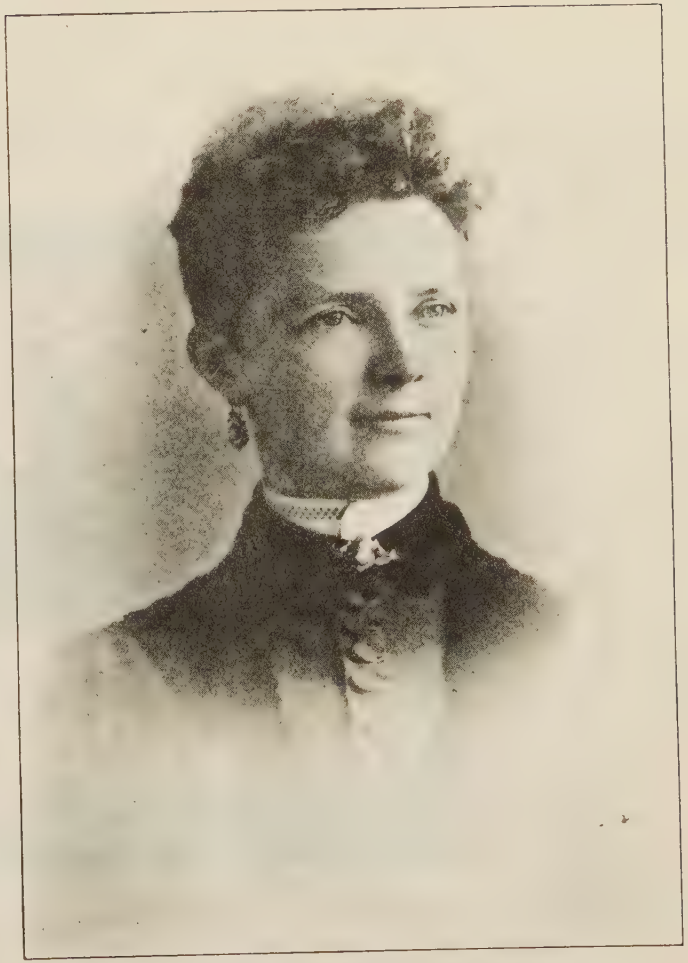
lin, the two latter of whom are still in school. Mrs. Fisher is a daughter of George and Mary (Linder) Wagner, both members of old families in this county, the latter born in Clay township. George Wagner was born in Pusheta township and was a well-to-do farmer. To him and his wife were born seven children, six of whom are living, Mrs. Fisher having three sisters, Mary, Josephine and Flora, and two brothers, Frank and Alois. Mr. and Mrs. Fisher are members of St. John's Catholic church at Freyburg and take an interested and helpful part in parish affairs, Mr. Fisher having served for several terms as a member of the church's board of trustees and also as church treasurer. He is a member of the local council (No. 1272) of the Knights of Columbus at Wapakoneta and he and his wife are Democrats. Mr. Fisher has taken a proper interest in local civic affairs in his home township and for eight years served as a member of the board of education for that township.

MISS MARTHA H. ALLEN, one of the large landowners of Union township and a former teacher in the schools of this county and in the Lima high school, now living at St. Johns, where she has a very pleasant home, was born in Union township and is the daughter and only child of James W. and Anna Eliza (Pippin) Allen, the latter of whom was born in Missouri. Anna Eliza Pippin was but a child when her parents died in Missouri and she was reared in the household of her uncle, William Lusk, who came with his family to this section of Ohio in the middle '40s and settled in Clay township of what then was Allen county, but which not long thereafter was included in the newly erected county of Auglaize. When fourteen years of age she was taken into the home of her aunt, Mrs. Joseph Hardin, in that same neighborhood, and was living there at the time of her marriage to James W. Allen in 1860. James W. Allen, who was a veteran of the Civil war, was born in Union township and was a son of Warren and Mary (Coleman) Allen, who had come here from Delaware, Ohio, and had settled on a half section of land, which Warren Allen had entered in Union township. Reared on the farm on which he was born, James W. Allen became a farmer on his own account after his marriage and was thus engaged when the Civil war broke out. On August 6, 1862, he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a private in Company B of the 45th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and while serving with that gallant command was taken prisoner by the enemy and was confined in the horrid rebel prison pen at Andersonville, Ga., where he died on May 26, 1864, as a consequence of the terrible privations there endured. On February 6, 1868, Mr. Allen's widow married Joseph S. Heston and it was thus that the soldier's daughter, Martha, was reared on the Heston farm there in Union township, a mile

JAMES W. ALLEN

From a Photograph Taken While a Soldier of the Union

MRS. ANNA ELIZA ALLEN HESTON



MISS MARTHA ALLEN

north of the pleasant village of St. Johns. Miss Allen's early schooling was received in the neighborhood school (district No. 9), adjoining the Heston farm, and at the St. Johns school, and she then entered the Wapakoneta high school, from which she was graduated in 1878. In 1880 she entered the Lima high school and after a post-graduate course of two years there began teaching school, her first experience in this line of educational work being in the schools of this county. She later was engaged as a teacher in the grade schools of Lima and after some years of service in that connection was made teacher of mathematics in the Lima high school. In this latter capacity she rendered service for two years, at the end of which time she returned to the home farm neighboring on St. Johns, 375 acres of which she received by inheritance, and has since resided there, renting her fields, and is very comfortably situated, her land holdings now aggregating 480 acres. Miss Allen is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church at St. Johns and takes a proper interest not only in the work of that congregation but in the general social and cultural activities of the community in which she lives.

ARNOLD E. RINEHART, a well-known farmer of Duchouquet township and proprietor of a well-kept farm on rural mail route No. 9 out of Wapakoneta, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life, a member of one of the real pioneer families of the county, his paternal grandfather, the well remembered Hugh T. Rhinehart, a member of the first board of county commissioners for Auglaize county, having been one of the most forceful figures in the formative period of this now well-developed and flourishing section of the state. Mr. Rinehart was born on a farm in Union township on June 23, 1860, and is a son of Arnold and Rebecca (Harrod) Rinehart, the latter of whom was a member of the pioneer Harrod family, which were numbered among the first settlers of Union township. Arnold Rinehart, who is now living retired at Uniopolis, also was born in Union township and is a son of Hugh T. and Juliana (Godfrey) Rinehart, who had settled there upon coming to this region in 1836. Hugh T. Rinehart, of excellent memory in this county, was born in Tazewell county, Virginia, October 23, 1813, and until his seventeenth year lived on his father's farm there. He then apprenticed himself to learn the blacksmith trade, and upon acquiring "the art and mystery" of that trade three years later, when he was in his twenty-first year, married Juliana Godfrey, who also was born in Tazewell county, November 1, 1813, and settled down to make a living for himself at his trade. Possessed of a pioneering spirit, however, he presently began to be attracted by the lure of the farther horizon and to long for some of the new lands that then were open for settlement out here in western Ohio, and in 1836, three years after his marriage, came here and entered from

the Government his claim to an "eighty" along Wrestle creek, in section 14 of Union township, which at that time was a part of Allen county, and there he and his wife settled down in the log cabin which he quickly got erected on the spot and started in on the difficult task of making a home and developing a farm in the then practical wilderness. Hugh T. Rinehart was an energetic and resourceful man and it was not long until he had begun to create a distinct impression in the community, his neighbors recognizing him as a leader from the start. When, in 1848, Auglaize county was erected into a separate civic unit, he was put forward by his neighbors as the representative from his district on the board of county commissioners and was elected in the first election held in this county, thus having been one of the three commissioners who brought about the formal organization of the county. He was a good farmer and a good manager and as his affairs prospered gradually added to his land holdings in this county until he became the owner of right around 1,000 acres of land and was accounted easily one of the most substantial citizens of this part of the state. From the time of his arrival here he had taken an interested and active part in local civic affairs, had served as a land appraiser when the public lands here were being appraised, for fifteen years served as justice of the peace in and for Union township, had also served variously from time to time as township trustee, township clerk and township assessor, and in the late '50s and early '60s was a member of the state board of equalization. As a lad he had become a member of the Methodist Episcopal church back in Virginia, and he and his wife were ever earnest supporters of that faith. Their last days were spent on the old home place which they had seen develop from its primitive state, her death occurring there on June 13, 1881. Mr. Rinehart survived his wife for more than twenty years, his death occurring on March 30, 1904, he then being in his ninety-first year, and at his passing left a good memory, for he had rendered well his duty in all relations of life. Hugh T. Rinehart and wife were the parents of eleven children, of whom a goodly number grew to maturity and had families of their own, so that the Rinehart connection in the present generation is a considerable one. Arnold Rinehart, one of the sons of this pioneer couple and the father of the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood on the farm on which he was born, in Union township, and after his marriage to Rebecca Harrod began farming on a tract of eighty acres in that township, which his father gave him, establishing his home there. To this he later added by purchase an adjoining "eighty," which gave him a good farm of 160 acres, and there he continued actively engaged in farming until his retirement and removal to Uniopolis, where he is now living. To him and his wife were born ten children, those besides the subject of this sketch

being Alice, Frank, Otto, Levi, Edna, Martha, Hugh, John and Fred. Reared on the home farm in Union township, Arnold E. Rinehart received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained at home until after his marriage, when he made his home on a farm in the Waynesfield neighborhood, where he lived for several years and then moved to a farm of 100 acres which he rented in the vicinity of Cridersville, and five years later bought that place and has ever since made his home there. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Rinehart has made extensive improvements on the place and now has a modern and well-equipped farm plant. It was in 1889 that Arnold E. Rinehart was united in marriage to Mary Speese, who also was born in Union township, a member of the pioneer family of that name which were numbered among the early settlers of that township, and to this union two sons have been born, Claude H. and Bud F. Rinehart, the latter of whom is unmarried. Claude H. Rinehart married Blanche Delong and has one child, a son, Claude Jr. The Rineharts are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Cridersville. Mr. Rinehart is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs.

C. H. DICKMAN is treasurer and general manager of the Kramer & Dickman Creamery Company of Minster. This was at one time one of the largest business concerns of the kind in northwestern Ohio, and its history furnishes an important part of the record of general agricultural activities in Auglaize county. For a number of years Mr. Dickman had been in the employ of an old and well-known citizen and business man of Minster, J. B. Kramer. Then in 1888 these two men became associated in a co-partnership for the purpose of making high-grade butter by the gathered cream system. While J. B. Kramer furnished much of the capital, the active men in the business were Mr. Dickman and John T. Kramer, son of J. B. Kramer. Mr. Dickman became manager, and young Mr. Kramer became the butter maker. The industry began in a small building on the site of the present main plant in Minster. The first butter was made December 10, 1888, and only fifty pounds were churned the first day. In 1895 a new system was adopted, when the firm began using the whole milk instead of the gathered cream. That was the plan of operation for ten years, and after 1905 a return was made to the gathered cream system. In a short time after the plant began receiving the whole milk, the average weekly receipts arose to 250,000 pounds. There also followed a rapid expansion of the business. In August, 1895, a building was erected at McCartyville, Ohio, and machinery installed for skimming the milk. In 1896 another skimming station was started northwest of New Bremen, and this station soon became a lively center of the milk industry. In 1898 the firm bought the creamery at New Knoxville and thor-

oughly remodeled it, and this subsequently became one of the busiest departments of the company's activities. In September, 1900, the company bought the John Barhorst creamery at Fort Loramie, and shortly thereafter erected a skimming station at Moulton. In less than twelve years the Summit City Creamery, as the business was known, had reached out and expanded so as to cover nearly all the territory around Minster. In 1908 the business was incorporated under the laws of Ohio, with a capital stock of $15,000, and for a number of years its annual products had been around and above 500,000 pounds of the very finest creamery butter. This butter is marketed all over western Ohio and also in New York city, and bore the standard brand, the "XXX," which purchasers readily identified and which brought the contents of the package the highest market price. In the year 1909 the company installed a Frick refrigerating system, making the first artificial ice in Minster. In September, 1920, Louis Huenke, with two of his sons, C. V. and Howard, and Harry Komminsk, took over the interest which had up to this time been owned by J. B. Kramer and sons. Besides the creamery business the company handles large quantities of poultry. Since 1920 the company has been buying eggs and is specializing in and encouraging the production of high-grade infertile eggs, having wonderful success in educating the poultrymen in the production of better eggs. This has been a prosperous business, which was built up from a small beginning. It reflects the business energy and integrity of several well-known local citizens, and besides their share of the prosperity attending the growth and development of the business, a splendid farming community has been given an immense impetus toward diversified industry and increased prosperity through this organization whose headquarters are at Minster. C. H. Dickman, who throughout has been the guiding business manager of the concern, was born at Minster on November 22, 1862, a son of C. H. and Mary Angeline (Kramer) Dickman. Mr. Dickman's parents were both natives of Minster. His father was born on May 12, 1837, and died on January 14, 1899. His mother was born on April 26, 1840, and died on June 9, 1897. His grandfather, C. H. Dickman, was a native of Germany, born in Westerbackum, Oldenberg, September 4, 1805, who came to America in 1833, and in 1835 pioneered to Minster, Ohio. He was a cabinet maker by trade and his first work of importance in Minster was the building of the altars and pulpit in the first log church. In addition to his cabinet making, he engaged in a general store business and was a member of the first council in the village of Minster. He died on July 21, 1841, leaving a wife, Maria Angela (Drees) Dickman, and two small sons, Charles Henry and Bernard. The maternal grandfather, Bernard Kramer, was a locksmith by trade and a native of Handorf, Oldenburg, Ger-

many. He was one of the early pioneers and settled in Minster in 1833. Mr. Dickman's father was a well-known stock buyer in the early days, also a farmer, and subsequently became identified with a flouring mill, and later was in the Star Brewing Company of Minster. He was a Democrat in politics, and for a number of years served as city marshal of Minster. All the family are members of the Catholic church. C. H. Dickman, Sr., and wife were married in St. Augustine's church, Minster, on June 12, 1860, and were the parents of twelve children. The nine now living are: C. H. Dickman; Mary, wife of Hy. Rakel, of Cincinnati; Catherine, widow of the late August Luckman, formerly a shoe merchant at Minster; Bernard, a resident of Piqua, Ohio; Josephine, wife of Fred Goeke, of Piqua; John, a steam engineer living at Chicago, Ill.; Joseph, a steamfitter living in California; Rosa, wife of Anthony Kramer, who is with the Standard Oil Company at Minster, and Charles, a printer living at Chicago. Those dead are a son, Frederick, who died in infancy, and two daughters, Elizabeth, wife of Herman Altemeyer, also deceased, and Agnes, wife of John Rohlfing, now living in Chicago. C. H. Dickman received his early education in the public schools of Minster, and at the age of fifteen began learning the cigarmakers' trade. Thus it will be seen that he became dependent upon his own resources at this early age, and his success in life can be attributed to the fact that he has not only worked hard, but has made intelligent use of his opportunities. After working at his trade a little more than two years, he found other employment, and in 1880 he took a job driving a huckster wagon for J. B. Kramer, and was in his employ for seven and one-half years, making regular weekly trips through the country, buying butter, eggs, poultry and other produce, for which he offered in trade dry goods, notions and groceries. In the fall of 1887 he went to Sedalia, Mo., making his home with his uncle, the Rev. B. Dickman, and his cousin, Joseph A. Dickman. In the spring of 1888 he went to Montrose, Henry county, Missouri, and started a produce business, which he conducted with success until in the fall of the same year, when he returned to Minster and became associated with his former employer under the firm name of Kramer & Dickman, in the creamery business, and has now given upwards of thirty years to the development of an industry which vitally touches the welfare and prosperity of hundreds of farmers in the neighborhood around Minster. At the organization of the Minster State Bank he became a stockholder of this institution and has held a directorship in it since 1914. On January 29, 1890, Mr. Dickman married Agnes Deiters, the youngest daughter of Bernard Deiters and wife. She was born on a farm east of Minster and died on April 26, 1891. Both her children are now deceased. For his second wife Mr. Dickman married Elizabeth

Brinker, who was born in St. Louis, Mo., May 4, 1870. Of their nine children, seven are living: Della, wife of Louis Hoying, who is associated with the Hoying-Westerheide Hardware Company of Minster; Leonora, bookkeeper for the Kramer & Dickman Creamery Company; Marie, stenographer for the Minster Mutual Fire Insurance Company; Lavina, stenographer for the Kramer & Dickman Creamery Company; Genevieve, assistant bookkeeper for the Minster Mutual Fire Insurance Company; C. H., Jr., a sophomore in the Minster high school; Bernadette, pupil of the fifth grade of the Minster public school; and Walter and Frederick, deceased. The family are active members of the Catholic church, and Mr. Dickman is a charter member of Father Kunkler Council No. 2158, Knights of Columbus, of Minster. Politically he is a Democrat and served two terms on the village council and one term as village clerk. In January, 1903, the board of education of the Minster village school district elected him a member to fill the vacancy caused by the death of August Schmieder. He was re-elected in the spring of 1903, and in the same year was chosen as the clerk of the board, which office he has held to the present day. Through his efforts the board of education instituted a high school in 1906, thus giving the younger generation an opportunity for a better education than was afforded in the days when he attended school. The progress of the Minster high school is noted by the fact that at the beginning of the 1922-1923 class 142 pupils were enrolled.

WILBUR T. DUBOIS, proprietor of the Wapakoneta Battery Service Station and dealer in automobile tires and accessories, with a well equipped establishment on Park street in Wapakoneta, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life with the exception of a period during the days of his youth when he was engaged in the locomotive works at Lima. Mr. DuBois was born on a farm in Washington township on September 23, 1893, and is a son of William V. and Dorothea (Headapohl) DuBois, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here. William V. DuBois is the owner of a well improved farm of eighty acres in Washington township, which is now being farmed by his son Milton. To him and his wife five children were born, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Ruth and Cora (twins), and two brothers, Edward H. and Milton DuBois. Reared on the home farm in Washington township, Wilbur T. Dubois received his schooling in the district school in the neighborhood of his home and remained at home until he was seventeen years of age when he became employed as a clerk in the Zeigler dry goods store at Wapakoneta. He remained there eight months and then went to Lima, where for a little more than a year he was employed in the locomotive works there, acquiring, during this time, a prac-

tical knowledge of mechanics which has stood him in good stead in his present vocation. Upon his return to Wapakoneta, Mr. DuBois resumed his former place in the dry goods store and was thus engaged for six months or more, at the end of which time he was made manager of the local store of the Inter-City Tea Company. He maintained this position for three years and then, in 1919, decided to turn his attention to the growing automobile industry and with this end in view secured employment in the plant of the General Tire and Supply Company on Park street, Wapakoneta. A year later, having meanwhile thoroughly familiarized himself with the details of this business, Mr. DuBois bought the place, changed the name of the enterprise to the Wapakoneta Battery Service Station and has since been doing business at the old stand on his own account, having there a well equipped battery recharging plant as well as a filling station (gasoline and oil) and an adequate stock of general automobile accessories, and is doing well. Mr. DuBois is a Republican, is a member of Wapakoneta Aerie No. 691, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and he and his wife are members of the First Lutheran church, the congregation of which Mr. DuBois is serving as secretary of the church council, as superintendent of the Sunday school and as president of the Men's Brotherhood of the church. On September 9, 1913, Wilbur T. DuBois was united in marriage to Elizabeth M. Metzger, who also was born in this county, daughter of David and Nancy (Winemiller) Metzger, of Duchouquet township, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Dorothy E., born on September 8, 1914, who died on February 17, 1915; William D., born on October 12, 1915; Mary M., September 7, 1918, and Virgil. Mr. DuBois and his family have a pleasant home on East Harrison street.

CHRISTIAN D. KATTERHEINRICH, a member of one of the pioneer families of Auglaize county and a partner in the enterprising business created at New Knoxville, now operated under the name of H. K. & K. Roofing Company (Hinze, Katterheinrich & Katterheinrich), was born on a farm three miles east of New Knoxville, in Washington township, and is a son of H. H. and Sophia Katterheinrich, who are now living retired there, as is set out elsewhere in this volume. Elsewhere also are further details regarding the settlement of the now widely connected Katterheinrich family in this county back in pioneer days. Of the eight children born to H. H. Katterheinrich and wife, four are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mary, and two brothers, William W. and Samuel B. Katterheinrich, the latter of whom also is connected with the H. K. & K. Roofing company, with which concern the former also formerly was associated, as is set out elsewhere. Reared on the home farm in Washington township, Christian D. Katterhein-

rich received his early schooling in the neighborhood schools and supplemented this by two years of attendance at the Baldwin-Wallace College at Berea, Ohio. He then became engaged in railroading and for three years was employed as a locomotive fireman, after which he went to Pittsburg and was for a while employed there in the plant of the Westinghouse Electric Company. He then became engaged in the life insurance business and followed this for about three years, at the end of which time he bought the Luecke interest in the H. L. K. Roofing Company at New Knoxville, which since has been known as the H. K. & K. Company, and has since given his whole attention to promoting the growing affairs of that concern, which not only carries on a general tinning and roofing business, but handles a general line of plumbing and building supplies and has created for itself a well established place in the community. Mr. Katterheinrich is a Republican. In his fraternal relations he is a member of the Masonic Order. Christian D. Katterheinrich married Clara Rodeheffer, daughter of John Rodeheffer,, also a member of one of the old families of this county, and to this union two children have been born, Leroy and Clarabelle. Mr. and Mrs. Katterheinrich are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and Mr. Katterheinrich has served as superintendent of the Sunday school of that church.

CHARLES E. GREEN, one of the trustees of Union township, president of the board of education of that township, a member of the county board of health, formerly and for years a teacher in the schools of this county, a former merchant at Uniopolis and at Waynesfield, now living on a well kept farm which he owns just south of the pleasant village of Uniopolis, was born at Uniopolis and has lived in that vicinity all his life. Mr. Green was born on September 28, 1872, and is a son of Henry and Hester Ann (King) Green. The late Henry Green, who for years was a well known mill man at Uniopolis, was born in England and was nineteen years of age when he came to this country. Upon coming here he located at Toledo, Ohio, where he remained for several years and then moved to Groveport, in Franklin county, where he became engaged in railway construction work and in saw milling, and there remained until 1866, when he came to Auglaize county and bought a saw mill at Uniopolis. For some years thereafter, or until the big timber was pretty well got out of the way in that vicinity, he operated this mill and then bought a farm of seventy-five acres in that neighborhood and spent the rest of his life engaged in farming, his death occurring in 1910. To him and his wife were born eight children, all of whom are living save two, one who died in infancy and Joseph, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Ellen, Emma and Stella, and two brothers, William and Allen Green. Reared at Unio-

CHARLES E. GREEN AND FAMILY

polis, Charles E. Green received his early schooling in the schools of that village and then took a course in the state normal school at Ada. For thirteen years thereafter he was engaged in teaching in the schools of his home county, spending his summers in employment in the village stores, and then became engaged in the hardware business with his brother, William, opening a store at Uniopolis. Later he and his brother opened a hardware store at Waynesfield. Upon leaving that store he bought a tract of twenty acres of land and began farming in Union township. Shortly before his marriage he bought an additional tract of thirty-three acres. For ten years he made his home on that place and then he moved to the farm, which he had bought, just south of Uniopolis, and on which he is now living, and has since made his home on this latter place, in the meantime having increased his holdings to 152 acres. Mr. Green is a Republican and has long given his earnest attention to local civic affairs, at present a member of the board of trustees of Union township. He also has for years served as a member of the local board of education and is also a member of the Auglaize County Health Council and of the county board of health. It was on June 29, 1904, that Charles E. Green was united in marriage to Rufina Focht, a member of one of the pioneer families of the Uniopolis neighborhood, daughter of Jacob L. and Maria Focht, and to this union have been born five children, Henry, Anita, Marjorie, Imogene and Kathyleen, all of whom are at home with their parents. The Greens have a very pleasant home and have ever taken an interested and helpful part in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

ISAAC FRANKLIN WHEELER, a member of one of the pioneer families of Logan township, former trustee of that township and a substantial farmer and landowner of that township, now living retired at Buckland, was born on a farm about a mile west of Buckland and has lived in that neighborhood all his life, one of the best known citizens thereabout. Mr. Wheeler was born on July 3, 1860, and is a son of Horace and Mary Jane (Trotter) Wheeler, pioneers of the old Whitefeather (Buckland) settlement, who had come here from Licking county in 1851, and of whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Of the six children born to Horace Wheeler and wife two are living, the subject of this sketch having an elder brother, James E. Wheeler, a retired farmer, who also makes his home at Buckland. Reared on the home farm west of Buckland, where he was born, Isaac Franklin Wheeler received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained with his father on the farm, a helpful factor in the labors of developing and improving the same, until his marriage at the age of twenty-eight years, when he bought a "forty" in that neighborhood and on

that place established his home. His affairs prospered and he added to his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of 178 acres, and on that place made his home until his retirement, in 1919, and removal to Buckland, where he is now living and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Mr. Wheeler is a Democrat and has long taken an active interest in local political affairs, having served for one term as a member of the board of trustees of Logan township. He also has served as school director in his home district and in other ways has been helpful in public service. He and his family are members of the Bethlehem Christian Union church. It was in October, 1888, that Isaac Franklin Wheeler was united in marriage to Sarah Mack, daughter of Christian and Christina (Gephart) Mack, and to this union five children have been born, three of whom are living, Rowena, Frank and Louella, the latter of whom is at home with her parents. Rowena Wheeler married Ray Baum, of Spencerville, Ohio, and has one child, a son, Franklin. Frank Wheeler married Hazel Reed, of Buckland, and has three children, Roger, and Harold and Howard (twins). Mrs. Sarah Wheeler was born in the neighboring county of Allen, where her parents, both natives of Germany, had settled after their marriage. Her mother was twenty-one years of age when she came to this country, and her father was fourteen. The Mack family settled in Marion county upon coming to Ohio, and there Christian Mack grew to manhood. After his marriage to Christina Gephart he made his home in Allen county, where he became the owner of a farm of 170 acres. To him and his wife were born twelve children, six of whom are now living, Mrs. Wheeler having a sister, Lena, and four brothers, Isaac, John, William and Henry Mack.

JOSIAH HARROD, a well known retired building contractor at Waynesfield and formerly and for years a member of the village council there, was born in Wayne township and has lived there all his life, a resident of Waynesfield since the days of his young manhood, an active factor in the development of the growing interests of that enterprising and progressive village. Mr. Harrod was born on a farm on the lower edge of the township, a mile or more south of Waynesfield, February 28, 1865, and is a son of James and Mary A. (Conner) Harrod, who were in their generation among the best known residents of that neighborhood. James Harrod was born in Knox county, Ohio, a son of Jacob Harrod, one of the pioneers of that county, and remained there until the time of the opening of the gold fields in California in 1849, when he joined the rush for the new Eldorado and was for three years engaged in prospecting in California. He had considerable success and upon his return came over into this part of the state and bought a quarter of a section of land south of Waynesfield, where he established his home and

continued actively engaged in farming until his retirement and removal to Waynesfield, where he spent the remainder of his life. To James Harrod and wife were born three children, of whom the subject of this sketch now alone survives, he having had a sister, Ida, and a brother, Levi Harrod. Reared on the home farm south of Waynesfield, Josiah Harrod received his schooling in the Waynesfield schools and early became employed as a carpenter, a vocation to which he ever since has given his attention. Upon becoming thoroughly established in the technical details of building, Mr. Harrod launched out as a building contractor on his own account, with headquarters at Waynesfield and continued actively engaged in that line until his recent retirement, during this long period of active operations, having built many of the most important and substantial structures in that part of the county. Mr. Harrod is a Republican and for fifteen years served as a member of the Waynesfield town council. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church at Waynesfield and have a very pleasant home in that village. Mrs. Harrod is the owner of an excellent farm of 160 acres in Wayne township. She was born in that township, Sadie L. Plough, and is a daughter of J. H. and Lucy E. (Means) Plough. She and Mr. Harrod were married on December 8, 1889. Her father, J. H. Plough, who was a veteran of the Civil war, was born in Montgomery county, this state, and was living in Indiana when the Civil war broke out. He enlisted in an Indiana regiment and served for about four years. After his marriage he settled on a farm in Wayne township, this county, and here spent the remainder of his life. Of the three children born to him and his wife, Mrs. Harrod now alone survives.

HENRY E. GOSSARD, proprietor of the general store at Bingville, in Union township, and owner of a good farm in that immediate neighborhood, where he makes his home, was born in the neighboring township of Wayne on February 1, 1878, and is a son of Jasper and Mary Adaline (Iswole) Gossard, the latter of whom is still living, making her home at Westminster, up over the line in Allen county. The late Jasper Gossard was born in Fayette county, this state, and was but a boy when he came to Auglaize county with his parents, James Gossard and wife, the family settling on a farm in section 2 of Wayne township. James Gossard, the pioneer, was a man of force and energy and became the owner of 520 acres in that vicinity. On that farm Jasper Gossard grew to manhood and after his marriage continued farming there for some years, at the end of which time he moved with his family to Wells county, Indiana, bought a farm of 100 acres there and for fourteen years made his home on that place. He then disposed of his interests in Indiana and returned to Ohio, buying a farm of 140 acres in the Westminster neighborhood in Allen county, where he lived until his retirement from the

farm, when he sold the place and moved to Westminster, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there on October 17, 1921. His widow still makes her home at Westminster. Henry E. Gossard was about six years of age when his parents moved over into Indiana and his schooling was received in the schools of Wells county, that state. He was twenty years old when the family returned to Ohio and he worked with his father on the farm in the Westminster neighborhood until his marriage at the age of twenty-two, when he rented the home place on the "thirds". For two years he continued farming on this basis, working the farm of 110 acres, and then continued it on the "halves" for five years, at the end of which time, in 1909, he bought a tract of thirty acres where he is now living at Bingville, in Union township, this county, and established his home there. To this tract, Mr. Gossard has added by later purchase until now he and his wife are the owners of 118 acres, including a "forty" which the latter received by inheritance. In 1911, Mr. Gossard opened a general store at Bingville and has since given the larger part of his attention to that enterprise, though continuing to keep a pretty close observation on the operations of the farm. His store is amply stocked and equipped for the trade needs of the neighborhood and he is doing well in business. He and his wife are Republicans. On February 27, 1901, Henry E. Gossard was united in marriage to Clara E. Shannon, who also is a member of one of the old families of this county, daughter of James and Etta (Laudick) Shannon, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Lucile A., wife of Glen Waitman.

GEORGE N. WAITMAN, one of the well known farmers in the upper part of Union township and a substantial landowner in that part of the county, was born and reared in the neighboring county of Shelby, but has been a resident of Auglaize county for the past fifteen years or more. Mr. Waitman was born a Churchhill and bears the name of Waitman by reason of his adoption at the age of seventeen years by his maternal uncle, William Waitman, in whose household he was reared. He was born on a farm in Shelby county on November 20, 1867, and is the son and only child of Samuel and Mary (Waitman) Churchill. Samuel Churchill, who was a veteran of the Civil war, also was born in Shelby county, a member of one of the pioneer families there, and after his marriage became a tenant farmer there, but later went to Lima, where he became employed in the paper mill and where his last days were spent. When he was two years old, George N. Churchhill was taken into the home of his mother's brother, William Waitman, a substantial farmer of Shelby county and also a veteran of the Civil war (Company G, 126th Ohio), and has ever since borne the name of Waitman. He was reared on the farm, given good schooling, and

for two years taught school in his home county. He married at the age of twenty-two and then began farming on a "forty" which he rented in that county and which he afterward bought. To this farm he later added an adjoining tract of twenty acres and on this farm of sixty acres in Shelby county he made his home until 1907, when he disposed of his holdings there and came up into Auglaize county and bought the farm of 120 acres on which he is now living in Union township and where he and his family are quite comfortably situated. Since taking possession of this farm, Mr. Waitman has made numerous substantial improvements on the place and has a well equipped farm plant, he and his sons carrying on their operations there in accordance with modern methods of agriculture. Mr. Waitman is a Democrat and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. It was on December 24, 1887, that George N. Waitman was united in marriage to Eliza V. Young, who also was born in Shelby county, daughter of William and Loretta (Rairdon) Young, and to this union ten children have been born, all of whom are living save two, Oneida and Edna, the others being Harley, William W., Glen L., B. Harold, Ethel P., Bernice M., Herbert L. and George E. The Waitmans have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis.

SAMUEL B. KATTERHEINRICH, a member of the H. K. & K. Roofing Company of New Knoxville and one of the best known figures in the commercial and industrial life of that village, was born on a farm three miles east of New Knoxville, March 27, 1881, and is a son of H. H. and Sophia (Katterheinrich) Katterheinrich, both of whom also were born in Washington township and are still living on their home farm there, substantial representatives of two of the pioneer families of that part of this county. H. H. Katterheinrich, now living retired from the active labors of the farm, followed the vocation of wagon making for some time in the days of his young manhood and then became a farmer, making his home on an "eighty" he had bought in the northwest quarter of section 26 in Washington township, just three miles due east of New Knoxville, and has ever since resided there, meanwhile having substantially increased his landholdings, and has been living retired since 1919. To him and his wife were born eight children, four of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mary, and two brothers, William W. and Christian D. Katterheinrich, the latter of whom also is a member of the H. K. & K. Company, with which the former also formerly was connected. Reared on the home farm in Washington township, Samuel B. Katterheinrich received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained on the farm until after attaining his majority when he became engaged in railroading, not long afterward going to Pittsburg, where he took employ-

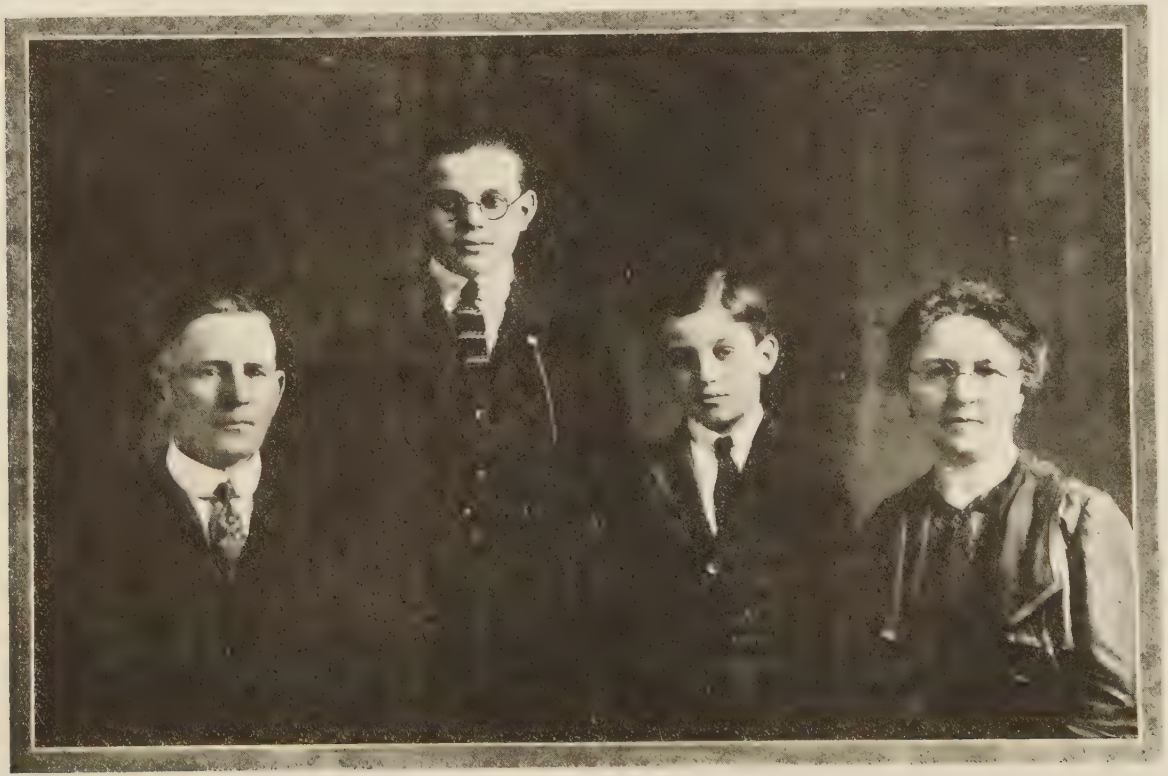
ment in the great plant of the Westinghouse Electric Company, where he remained until he returned to this county to take employment in the tinning and roofing establishment which his brother William and Mr. Hinze and Mr. Luecke had set up at New Knoxville. Not long afterward he bought his brother's interest in that concern and thus became a member of the H. L. K. Roofing Company, which was changed to the H. K. & K. Company when his brother, Christian D. Katterheinrich, bought the Luecke interest in the establishment, as is set out elsewhere, together with other details regarding the scope of operations of this progressive concern, which in addition to its general tinning and roofing business handles a general line of plumbing and builders supplies and has become a well established concern. Mr. Katterheinrich is a Freemason and is a Republican. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, has been the teacher of a Sunday school class in that church for the past six or seven years and is now the superintendent of the Sunday school, having served in that capacity since January 1, 1922. The Katterheinrich family is one of the old families of this county and repeated reference is made in this volume to one and another of the several branches of the family here.

NELSON MORRIS, a well known bachelor farmer, who is farming the old Morris place east of Wapakoneta, where he continues to make his home with his aged widowed mother, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of Auglaize county, his grandfather, John Morris, a Virginian, the first justice of the peace of Union township, having been one of the earliest permanent settlers in the vicinity of the old Blackhoof Indian village, now known as St. Johns. This pioneer, John Morris, a member of one of the old colonial families in Virginia, grew up in the Old Dominion and there married Mary Ann Clarkson. That was in 1832, the year in which the Indians left the Wapakoneta reserve for their new home in the West, and John Morris and his bride came out here into the then wilderness to find a home in the new lands thus opened for settlement here on the old reserve. He entered his claim to a tract comprising 144 acres in the southwest quarter of section 30 of Union township, a mile northwest of the old Blackhoof village (St. Johns), where old Chief Blackhoof had died and was buried just the year before, and on that unbroken woodland tract he and his wife settled down to make a home, the first task of the pioneers being to get up a log house and set it in such order as might be possible with the limited furnishings which they were able to bring across country with them. While they were getting this cabin in order they lived in one of the deserted Indian cabins, numbers of which still stood in that vicinity, and of whose inadequate shelter many of the settlers in this old reserve availed themselves upon their arrival here, as has been set

out elsewhere in this work. The first child born to this pioneer couple, a son, whom they named John, is said to have been the first white child born in Union township. The pioneer John Morris was an upstanding, energetic, go-ahead sort of a man and it was not long until he had a clearing on his place and a proper shelter for his family. In the spring of 1834, when the settlers in Union township came to organize for civic purposes, John Morris was elected first justice of the peace for the township and he held that magisterial office for several years, thus exerting an influence for good in that neighborhood which has been effective through all the years since then. In other ways he did well his part in the formative period of the community and his memory ever will be kept green there. On that place he spent the remainder of his life, developing an excellent farm, and lived to be well past eighty years of age, his death occurring on September 22, 1882. He was born in 1798 and was a son of a soldier of the Revolution. The late Henry Morris, an honored veteran of the Civil war and one of the sons of John and Mary Ann (Clarkson) Morris, was born on that pioneer farm there in the St. Johns neighborhood and grew to manhood familiar with the arduous tasks attendant upon the development of a woodland farm. When the Civil war broke out he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a private in the 54th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which gallant command he served for three years and during which service he participated in some pretty strenuous action, including the battle of Shiloh, in which he was wounded. Upon the completion of his military service Henry Morris returned home and resumed his place on the farm, establishing his home on a tract of fifty-three acres which he had bought, a part of the old home place, and there spent the remainder of his life. He was a good farmer and gradually increased his holdings until he became the owner of a fine farm of 187 acres. He died in December, 1911, and his widow is still making her home on the farm, the operations of which are being carried on by the subject of this sketch. Henry Morris married Helena Hartung, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, daughter of August and Anna Hartung, and of the children born to this union all are living save one daughter, Viola, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Charles, William, Anna, Almeda, Alice, Jennie, Bertha and Jerome. Born on the home farm on September 10, 1867, Nelson Morris, son of Henry and Helena (Hartung) Morris, grew to manhood on that place and has lived there all his life He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the farm, which, since the death of their father, he and his brother, William, have been operating in partnership in behalf of their mother and the

other heirs and are doing well in their operations. They have a well improved farm and a well equipped farm plant there on rural mail route No. 1 out of Wapakoneta and the family is comfortably situated. The Morrises are Republicans and have ever taken a proper interest in local civic affairs.

JOHN H. FRISCHE, president of the Washington township school board, a member of the board of directors of the Auglaize Fair association and one of the well known and substantial farmers of Washington township, proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 2 out of Wapakoneta, was born in this county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Frische was born on a farm in Washington township on January 30, 1870, and is a son of William and Mary (Stroh) Frische, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here. The late William Frische was born in Washington township and after his marriage established his home there and continued farming there until his death in 1874. He and his wife were the parents of four children, all of whom are living save Eliza, who died at the age of eighteen months, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Anna and Ida. The widowed mother of these children married secondly Louis Schneider and in 1880 moved to Pusheta township. John H. Frische was ten years of age when the family moved from Washington township to Pusheta township and in the schools of this latter township he completed his schooling. From the days of his boyhood he was well trained in the ways of farming and continued to make his home on the home farm until his marriage at the age of twenty-four, when he established his home on his present farm in Washington township, which he had inherited from his grandparents, and has ever since resided there. To the tract of 160 acres which he received there, by inheritance, he has added an adjoining tract and now has a well cultivated place of 186 acres. Upon taking possession of that place, Mr. Frische erected a new dwelling house and a new barn and has since added other buildings until now he has one of the best farm plants in the neighborhood, all modern in appointments and lighted by electric light. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well in his operations. Mr. Frische is a Republican and has long taken an active interest in general civic affairs, for some time having served as president of the local school board in his home township. He is a member of the board of directors of the county fair association and has for years taken an interested part in the affairs of that successful organization. He and his wife are members of St. Paul's Evangelical church at Wapakoneta. Mr. Frische has been twice married. It was on April 11, 1894, that he was united in marriage to Amelia Prieser, who was born in Moulton township, daughter of



JOHN H. FRISCHE AND FAMILY

Fred and Marie (Doering) Prieser, and to this union one child was born, a son, Frederick W., born on July 16, 1895, who died on September 8, 1900. Mrs. Amelia Frische died on January 18, 1901, and on June 15, 1904, Mr. Frische married Rosina Schumann, also of this county. To this union two children have been born, sons both, Carl G., born on April 19, 1907, who is now attending high school at Wapakoneta, a member of the class of 1924, and John Louis, born on September 28, 1910, who is attending school in district No. 6. Mrs. Rosina Frische was born at Wapakoneta on April 26, 1875, and is a daughter of George and Katherine (Roode) Schumann, the latter of whom was born in Jackson township in the neighboring county of Shelby. George Schumann was born in New York city, but was reared in this county, he having been but a child when his parents came here and settled on a farm in Pusheta township. To George Schumann and wife were born seven children, all of whom are living, Mrs. Frische having four sisters, Margaret, Anna, Clara and Edith, and two brothers, Andrew and John Schumann. The Frisches have a pleasant home about four miles southwest of Wapakoneta and have ever taken an interest in the general social activities of that neighborhood. This was the place settled by Mr. Frische's grandfather, Henry Frische, back in the '40s of the past century and has been held in the family since the day of its original entry from the Government.

SAMUEL H. SIBERT, M. D., a veteran practicing physician at Freyburg, former coroner of Auglaize county, a member of the county board of agriculture, a substantial landowner of the county and one of the best known physicians in this part of the state, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here, and has resided in this county all his life. Doctor Sibert was born in the then village of St. Marys on April 13, 1858, and is a son of James Franklin and Catherine (Brandenburg) Sibert, the latter of whom also was born at St. Marys April 28, 1836, daughter of Henry T. and Elizabeth (Benner) Brandenburg, the latter a daughter of Christian Benner, the pioneer miller, who were married there. Henry T. Brandenburg was born in Frederick county, Maryland, January 31, 1805, and was ten years of age when, in 1815, he came with his parents to Ohio, the family locating at Dayton, where he grew to manhood and where he remained until 1833, when he came up into this part of the state and became engaged as a clerk for John Pickerell and Samuel Statler, proprietors of the historic old tavern at St. Marys. Not long after his marriage, Henry T. Brandenburg became engaged in the mercantile business at St. Marys and was thus engaged there until 1855, when he moved to his farm a mile east of St. Marys. In 1871 he sold that farm and returned to town, where he remained until in the fall of 1885, when

he began to make his home with his grandson, Doctor Sibert, at Freyburg, where his last days were spent, his death occurring on February 16, 1891, he then being past eighty-six years of age. Mr. Brandenburg's eldest son, Christian Brandenburg, was a soldier of the Union during the Civil war and died in service at Camp Nelson, Kentucky. James Franklin Sibert, who also was a soldier of the Union during the time of the Civil war, was born in Carroll county, Ohio, in 1828, and was a young man when, in the late '40s, he came over into this part of the state and began to teach school at Uniopolis and later at St. Marys. Not long after his arrival here he married Catherine Brandenburg and then he began farming, continuing, however, to teach school during the winters, and was thus engaged when the Civil war broke out. In 1863 he entered the service of the Union army and went to the front as a member of Company D of the 180th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which command he served for more than a year or until honorably discharged on account of impaired health. In 1865 he moved with his family to Missouri, where he established his home on a farm and where he became engaged in teaching school. He became the owner of a considerable tract of land in Missouri and later moved to Huffsmith, Texas, where his last days were spent, his death occurring there in March, 1905. His widow survived him for more than ten years, her death occurring on December 17, 1916. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. To James Franklin Sibert and wife were born five children, four sons and one daughter, the latter of whom (Rosalie) died in infancy, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Albert Sibert, who met his death in an industrial accident in 1888; Joseph F. Sibert, a detective on the staff of the Toledo & Ohio Central Railroad Company, with headquarters at Toledo, and Verne T. Sibert, an oil speculator and operator, now living at Logan, Ohio. Dr. Samuel H. Sibert received his early schooling at St. Marys and was graduated from the Lima high school in 1878. He early had devoted himself to the study of medicine and after leaving the high school entered the Ohio Eclectic Medical College at Cincinnati, where he spent one term. He then spent a term in the Pulte Medical College at Cincinnati and then entered Starling Medical College at Columbus, from which institution he was graduated in 1881. Upon receiving his diploma, Doctor Sibert returned to St. Marys and there opened an office for the practice of his profession, remaining there a year or more, or until December 2, 1882, when he opened an office for practice at Freyburg, where he ever since has been located. Of recent years Doctor Sibert has been giving his special attention to surgical cases and to the treatment of cancer. He is a member of the American Medical Association, the Ohio State Medical Society and the Auglaize County Medical Society and is also affiliated with the Eclectic Medical Association. The Doctor also is

affiliated with the local lodges of the Freemasons, the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and the Fraternal Order of Eagles at Wapakoneta and with the Swabian Society (Schwabischer Unterstuetzing Verein) at that place. He has done well in his practice and has made some excellent real estate investments, his holdings along that line including a farm of 120 acres in Pusheta township, this county; a farm of 120 acres in Missouri and a farm of 130 acres in Texas, besides town property in this county. The Doctor has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and for about sixteen years served as coroner of Auglaize county. He is now a member of the county board of agriculture. In 1884, about two years after locating at Freyburg, Dr. Samuel H. Sibert was united in marriage to Flora C. Katterheinrich, also a member of one of the old families of Auglaize county, who was born at New Knoxville, a daughter of William Katterheinrich, who died while serving as a soldier of the Union during the Civil war, and to this union three children have been born, a son and two daughters, Aldo Verne, Cleola Rosina Catherine and LaVera Mildred Elizabeth, the latter of whom married Philander R. Sammetinger, a farmer of this county and a veteran of the World war, and has one child, a son, Howard William. The elder daughter, Cleola Rosina Catherine Sibert, married Charles Frech, a farmer and son of John Frech, of this county, and has one child, Shirley E. Frech. Dr. Aldo Verne Sibert, only son of Doctor and Mrs. Sibert, is a veteran of the World war, with the rank of major in the Medical Corps of the army. He was graduated from Starling Medical College at Columbus and is now engaged in practice at Lima. Not long after the beginning of this country's participation in the World war he was commissioned a first lieutenant in the Medical Corps of the army and was assigned to the base hospital at Camp Sherman (Chillicothe, Ohio), presently being transferred to the training camp at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ga. There he presently was promoted to the rank of captain and was transferred to the camp at Waco, Texas, where he received his promotion as major, he then being but twenty-six years of age, and it was with this latter rank that he received his discharge at the close of the war.

MICHAEL LAFAYETTE ZERKEL, one of Logan township's well known farmers, proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of Hume, is a native son of the proud old "Buckeye" state and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since he was three years of age, a period of more than seventy years, and thus may properly be accounted one of the real "old settlers" of the county. Mr. Zerkel was born in Champaign county, Ohio, February 21, 1847, and is a son of Louis and Elizabeth (Neese) Zerkel, both members of pioneer families in that county, of Virginia stock, who became residents of Auglaize county two years

after his county was organized. The late Louis Zerkel was born in Champaign county, a son of Abraham Zerkel, a member of one of the Virginian families that helped to settle that county, and there grew to manhood. He married Elizabeth Neese, who was born in the beautiful valley of the Shenandoah in Virginia and who was fifteen years of age when she came to Ohio with her parents, the family settling in Champaign county, and after his marriage continued to make his home in that county until 1850, in which year he came up into this part of the state and established his home on an "eighty" which he entered from the Government in the northeastern part of Logan township (section 24). He cleared that tract and later added an adjoining tract of sixty acres, this giving him a farm of 140 acres, where he spent the remainder of his life, one of the useful pioneers of that part of the county, as is set out elsewhere in this volume, together with other details regarding the Zerkel and the Neese families in this county. Louis Zerkel and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Sarah, and two brothers, Abraham and Annias Zerkel. As has been noted, Michael Lafayette Zerkel was but three years of age when his parents came here in 1850 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Logan township, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools. From the days of his boyhood he was well trained in the ways of the farm and has followed the vocation of farming all his life. He married at the age of twenty-four and then began farming on his own account, buying a tract of fifty-five acres on which he made his home for fourteen years, at the end of which time he sold that place and bought his present farm of 138 acres, where he ever since has resided and where he and his family are very comfortably situated. Much of this place was uncleared when Mr. Zerkel came into possession and he cleared it and has improved it in admirable fashion, now having an excellent farm plant, and has done well in his operations. Mr. Zerkel and his wife are members of the Antioch Christian Union church and are Democrats. It was on October 19, 1871, that Michael Lafayette Zerkel was united in marriage to Margaret Pearson, who was born in this county, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Pearson, pioneers of Logan township, and to this union six children have been born, Jefferson, Lillie, Louis, Franklin, Mary Jane and Hubert, all of whom are married. Jefferson Zerkel, who is now living at Lima, married Elizabeth Berchon and has one child, a daughter, Mary. Lillie Zerkel married John Bowers, of this county. Louis Zerkel, who is now living at Hume, over the line in Allen county, married Olive Miller and has two children, Earl and Leroy. Franklin Zerkel, who is also now living in Allen county, married Selma Thomas and has two children, Lela and Goldie. Mary Jane Zerkel married Clarence But-

rup, now living at Lima, and has four children, Harold, Clyde, Dorsey and Clarence, and Hubert Zerkel married Mattie Matison and has two children, Margaret Elizabeth and Quitora Edna.

JOSEPH MOSLER, a well known farmer and landowner of Auglaize county, now living retired at Wapakoneta, was born in this county and has been a resident of the county all his life. Mr. Mosler was born on a farm two miles east of Wapakoneta in Duchouquet township, April 10, 1860, and is a son of John and Elizabeth (Beaver) Mosler, who were for years among the best known residents of that section. The late John Mosler was born in Hamilton county, this state, and was but a lad when he came up into this part of the state with his parents, Ignatz Mosler and wife, in 1835, the family settling on a forty-acre tract which Ignatz Mosler had entered from the Government in Duchouquet township three years following the departure of the Indians from their reservation here, this section at that time having been included in the bounds of Allen county. Ignatz Mosler established his home on this uncleared tract, made a farm cut of it and increased his holdings until he became the owner of 160 acres of land and was accounted one of the substantial pioneers of that neighborhood. His son, John Mosler, grew up on that pioneer farm and after his marriage established his home on a farm of 160 acres he had bought nearby, the northeast quarter of section 34 of Duchouquet township, two miles east of Wapakoneta, and after his father's death came in for the latter's quarter section, thus becoming a well-to-do landowner. He spent the rest of his life on that farm. To him and his wife were born fourteen children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Susan and Anna, and two brothers, William and Samuel Mosler. Reared on the home farm east of town, Joseph Mosler received his schooling in old district school No. 11, just west of his home, and from the days of his boyhood was a helpful factor in the labors of developing the farm. After his marriage at the age of twenty-two he established his home on the home place and continued farming there in his father's behalf until the latter's death, when he bought from the other heirs their respective interests in the place and thus came into possession. Mr. Mosler remained on the farm, actively directing affairs there, until his retirement in 1919 and removal to Wapakoneta, where he has since resided, the farm now being managed by his son, Ed. It was on October 10, 1882, that Joseph Mosler was united in marriage to Julia Metzger, who was born in Duchouquet township, daughter of Jacob F. and Susanna (Bobb) Metzger, who lived north of town, and to this union six children have been born, all of whom are married save Lewis Mosler. The other children are as follows: Edward, who married Catherine Sheipline and has seven children, Raymond, John, George,

Harvey, Nellie, Dorothy and Charles; August, who married Dora Sheipline and has two children, Clarence and Pauline; Anton, who married Blanche Heins; Clara, who married Andrew Nuss and has one child, a son, Robert, and Florents who married Nellie Heins. Mr. and Mrs. Mosler have a pleasant home at 301 South Pearl street and are comfortably situated. They are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church and their children were reared in that faith.

ANDREW MARKET, a well known farmer and landowner of Duchouquet township, proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 6 out of Wapakoneta, has been a resident of this township since the days of his infancy. He was born in the city of Cincinnati on December 16, 1852, and is a son of Martin and Theresa (Smith) Market, who came up here in the following year and became numbered among the pioneers of this county, for the early '50s are accounted as having been well within what is regarded as the pioneer period in Auglaize county. Martin Market and his wife were born in Germany, where they were married. In 1850, almost immediately following their marriage, they came to the United States and located at Cincinnati, where they remained a couple of years or more, at the end of which time they came up here into Auglaize county and settled on a farm in section 26 of Duchouquet township, about two miles east of Wapakoneta. Upon settling there, Martin Market bought a tract of forty acres and there established his home. He did well in his farming operations and after he had got that place cleared bought an adjoining "forty" and later bought an adjoining tract of twenty acres, this giving him a farm of 100 acres, on which he and his wife spent their last days, well remembered members of that community. They were the parents of eight children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Theresa and Mary, and a brother, George Market. The deceased children of this family were Catherine, Franklin, Anna and Martin. Andrew Market was but a babe, not a year old, when his parents settled here in 1853 and he grew to manhood on the home farm east of Wapakoneta, receiving his schooling in old district school No. 7. From the days of his boyhood he was well trained in the ways of the farm and remained at home until his marriage, when he rented a farm in that neighborhood and for nine years thereafter was engaged in farming on his own account as a tenant farmer. He then bought eighty acres, a part of the farm on which he is now living, and as he developed and improved that place gradually added to his land holdings until he became the owner of 280 acres in Duchouquet township, a part of which he lately has given to his two sons, who are now farming there on their own account. Mr. Market and his wife are members of the English Lutheran church at Wapakoneta and are Democrats. They have a

pleasant home and are very comfortably situated in the "evening time" of their lives. Both have witnessed the development of that community from its pioneer condition and take a quiet satisfaction in the accomplishments of the years during which they have been factors in that development. It was on May 3, 1881, that Andrew Market was united in marriage to Maria Strohm, who was born in Duchouquet township, daughter of Mathias and Johanna (Hancock) Strohm, pioneers of that part of the county, and to this union two sons have been born, Elmer and Arthur, both of whom are now, as noted above, engaged in farming on the tracts turned over to them by their father. Elmer Market married Elizabeth Soern and has two children, Alberta and Melvin, and Arthur Market married Anna Soern and has four children, Ruby, Roland, Norman and Anna.

SAMUEL EISLEY, a well known farmer in the northwestern part of Logan township and a substantial landowner of that township, is a European by birth but has been a resident of this country and of Auglaize county since he was three years of age, a period of seventy years, and thus may be accounted one of the real "old settlers" of this county. Mr. Eisley was born in the republic of Switzerland on February 11, 1849, and is a son of John U. and Elizabeth (Bohrn) Eisley, also natives of that country, who in 1852 came with their family to the United States and proceeded on out into Ohio, locating in Auglaize county, where they spent the remainder of their lives. Upon coming here, John U. Eisley bought a small farm of thirty-five acres in just about the geographical center of Logan township and on that place established his home and began farming, his first task there being to make a clearing for the log cabin he erected for his family, for that district then was heavily wooded, he and his wife thus becoming pioneers of that section. On that place they spent their last days. Her death occurred in 1858, six years after her arrival here. He survived her many years, his death occurring in 1893. They were the parents of seven children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Elizabeth and Catherine, and two brothers, Jacob and Charles Eisley. As above noted, Samuel Eisley was but three years of age when he came with his parents to this country in 1852 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Logan township, receiving his schooling in the little old log school house, which at that time served the needs of that district. From the days of his boyhood he gave his attention to farming and after his marriage at the age of twenty-two years began farming on his own account, for several years farming as a renter. He then bought the original "forty" of his present ample farm in Logan township, the northwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 20 of that township, just north of the cross roads where church and school were located, and on that place estab-

lished his home and has ever since made that his place of residence. Since taking possession of that place, Mr. Eisley has brought it up to a high state of cultivation and has improved it in up-to-date fashion. He also has increased his landholdings and now has an excellent farm of 200 acres, a part of which belongs to his wife. The family is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 4 out of Spencerville. It was in May, 1871, that Samuel Eisley was united in marriage to Sarah Deitsch, who was born in Marion county, Ohio, daughter of Michael and Lydia Deitsch, and to this union have been born ten children, Matilda, Sarah (deceased), Benjamin, Laura, Emma, Cora, John, Harold, Florence (deceased) and Alma. Of the surviving children of this family all are married save the last named, and Mr. and Mrs. Eisley, who in 1921 celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, have fifteen grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Matilda Eisley married John Mack, Benjamin Eisley married Lillie Kellermeyer, Laura Eisley married Theodore Koenig, Emma Eisley married Fred W. Lawyer, Cora Eisley married Henry Geokle, John Eisley married Elva Metzger and Harold Eisley married Ruth Griffin. Mr. and Mrs. Eisley are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and their children were reared in that faith. They are Republicans and Mr. Eisley has ever given his thoughtful attention to local civic affairs, at one time serving as a member of the local school board.

JOHN C. McCORMICK, a veteran of the Civil war and one of the best known farmers and landowners of Union township, now living retired at his pleasant home there in section 1 in the northeastern part of the township, was born on that place and has lived there practically all his life, the exception having been a couple of years spent in Tennessee many years ago. Mr. McCormick is a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county. He was born on June 25, 1843, five years before the organization of Auglaize county, and is a son of John and Jane (Stewart) McCormick, who had come up here from Logan county some years before that date and had settled in the woods on the tract now owned by their son. The senior John McCormick was born in Perry county, this state, and was ten years of age when his parents moved to Fayette county, where they remained for ten years, at the end of which time they sought the newer lands in Logan county and established their home in this latter county. John McCormick at that time was twenty years of age and not long afterward, in 1835, he decided to have some of the new lands that then were awaiting settlement here in what then was Allen county and he entered his claim to a tract in the southeast quarter of section 1 of Union township and in the following year erected a cabin on that site and established his home there. It is narrated that in the fall of that year (1836) this cabin

MR. AND MRS. JOHN C. McCORMICK, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN

was destroyed by fire and he had to make a fresh start. But this was no unsurmountable handicap and he presently had a new and better cabin on his place, which he gradually got cleared, and in time he became the owner of that whole quarter section and was regarded as one of the substantial pioneers of that neighborhood. There he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives, useful members of the community. They were the parents of seven children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Clarissa Graham, and a brother, James McCormick. The deceased members of this family were Helen, Mary, William and Newton. Reared on the pioneer farm on which he was born and which he now owns, John C. McCormick received his schooling in the little old log school house of district No. 1, at the section cross roads just west of the McCormick farm, and was a well grown boy when the Civil war broke out. In May, 1864, he then being twenty years of age, he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a private in Company D of the 151st regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and with this command participated in the battle of Ft. Stephens. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. McCormick returned home and resumed his place on the farm. He married when twenty-four years of age and then took charge of the home place in his father's behalf and has ever since lived there with the exception of two years spent in Tennessee trying out farm life there with no great degree of satisfaction. Upon his father's death Mr. McCormick inherited thirty-two acres, to which he presently added by buying sixty-six acres of the home place and continued actively engaged in farming there until his retirement, now renting his fields though continuing to make his home there, where he has much about him to insure his comfort and pleasure during the "evening time" of his life, for he now is in his eightieth year. Mr. McCormick is an ardent Republican and is a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic at Waynesfield. It was on September 25, 1867, that John C. McCormick was united in marriage to Oral Jane Horn, who was born in Knox county, this state, daughter of David and Judith Ann (Reeser) Horn, and to this union nine children have been born, Denman, William, Raymond, Thomas, Charles, Arthur, Anna, Ollie and Emmet, all of whom are living save Arthur, who died on January 27, 1923. Besides this fine family of children Mr. and Mrs. McCormick have thirty-one grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren, in all of whom they take much pride and delight. The old McCormick home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis and has ever been noted for its genial hospitality. The picture accompanying this review of the McCormick family is reproduced from a photograph of the family group taken on September 25, 1917, on the

occasion of the celebration of Mr. and Mrs. McCormick's golden wedding anniversary and represents the McCormick family with the nine children of this venerable couple, the thirty-one grandchildren and the great-grandchildren up to that date.

GEORGE R. WELLS, cashier of the Citizens Banking Company of Waynesfield, a former treasurer of Wayne township, formerly and for years a teacher in the schools of this county, one of the best known men in the county, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here, and has lived in this county all his life. Mr. Wells was born on a farm about two miles east of Waynesfield, in Wayne township, and is a son of Joseph C. and Martha (Jett) Wells, the latter of whom was born in Virginia. The late Joseph C. Wells, who in his generation was one of the substantial farmers of the Waynesfield neighborhood, was born at Lowell, in Washington county, this state, February 25, 1831, and was eight years of age when his parents, Harris and Sallie (LaGrange) Wells, moved with their family to this part of Ohio in 1839 and settled on a woodland farm tract at the forks of Willow Branch in section 21 of Wayne township, which then was a part of Allen county, a mile or more east of where the village of Waynesfield was laid out some ten years later, following the organization of Auglaize county. Harris Wells, the pioneer, was born in 1809, and was thus thirty years of age when he became a resident of this region. He was an energetic farmer, took an active part in public affairs, for years a justice of the peace in and for Wayne township, and as his affairs prospered added to his holdings until he became the owner of 640 acres of land. His last days were spent here, his death occurring in Waynesfield on August 28, 1869. Joseph C. Wells grew to manhood on that pioneer farm and after his marriage became a farmer on his own account, establishing his home on a tract adjoining the home place, which he bought from his father, and became a well-to-do farmer, the owner of an excellent place of 200 acres. He died on May 5, 1893. To him and his wife were born nine children, four of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Jennie, Hattie and Olive. One daughter, Genevra, and four sons, William H., John, Joseph A. and Edward E. Wells, are deceased. Reared on the home farm east of Waynesfield, George R. Wells received his common schooling in the schools of Waynesfield and Wapakoneta, supplementing this by a course in the normal school at Ada, and then became engaged as a teacher in the schools of this county, a profession he followed for nineteen years, teaching during the winters and continuing his farming during the summers. He then took a course in a business college at Fostoria and when the Citizens Banking Company of Waynesfield was organized in 1903 he was selected cashier of that institution and has ever since occu-

pied that position, a period of twenty years, thus being one of the best known bankers in this part of the state. Mr. Wells is a Democrat and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs, having for several terms served as treasurer of his home township. He and his wife are members of the Baptist church at Waynesfield, and they have a very pleasant home in that charming village. In February, 1883, George R. Wells was united in marriage to Permetha Elliott, who was born in the neighboring county of Shelby, daughter of Thomas and Mary Elliott, and to this union have been born three children, J. Burton, Lulu and Bonnie, all of whom are married. J. Burton Wells married Ella Burk and is living at Waynesfield, where he is engaged as assistant cashier of the Citizens Banking Company. Lulu Wells married Harley Thrush and has one child, a son, Paul, and Bonnie Wells married O. M. Bailey and has one child, a daughter, Josephine.

LOUIS G. HELPLING, the well known art photographer at Wapakoneta, is one of the native sons of this county who have made something more than a local reputation in their respective lines, the fine character of Mr. Helpling's photography having long been recognized and acknowledged by competent critics of that form of art. Mr. Helpling was born on a farm in Pusheta township, this county, February 14, 1884, and is a son of Christ and Catherine (Braun) Helpling, the latter of whom was born at New Reigel in Seneca county, this state. The late Christ Helpling was a European by birth, an Alsatian, who came to this country in the days of his boyhood and early became trained to the trade of carriage making, a trade which he followed for some time after his marriage and then took up farming and in time became the owner of a farm of 200 acres in Pusheta township, where his last days were spent. To him and his wife were born nine children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Mary, Emma, Rose and Helen, and four brothers, John, Edward, Michael and Christ Helpling. Reared on the home farm in Pusheta township, about a mile and a half southwest of town, Louis G. Helpling received his primary schooling in the district school in that neighborhood and then began attendance at St. Joseph's parochial school at Wapakoneta, finishing his schooling by a year's attendance at the public high school there, and then went to Delphos, Ohio, where he spent nine months learning the barber trade, and then went to Ada and after six months there returned to this county and began working at his trade in a barber shop at St. Marys. He remained at St. Marys for five years, at the end of which time he took a trip to the Pacific coast and at San Jose and Santa Cruz, Cal., spent the better part of a year, after which he returned to St. Marys and resumed his vocation as a barber there and at the same time gave close attention to

a study of the art of photography, which had long greatly interested him. Giving up thought of longer being a barber, Mr. Helpling started out as a photographer and secured a position in a studio at Youngstown, where he remained six months, going then from there to Sharon, Pa., where he spent about five months perfecting himself in the details of the photographer's art and then returned to Wapakoneta and bought the old established photograph gallery of W. E. Potter and has ever since been operating this establishment, meanwhile adding to and improving his equipment until now he has one of the best establishments of the sort in western Ohio and has long had more than a local reputation for the excellent character and finish of the products of his camera. In addition to his activities in his studio, Mr. Helpling also acts as the local agent for the sale of the Waltham pianos and is doing well. He is an active member of the Wapakoneta Chamber of Commerce and of the Kiwanis Club and is doing his part toward the development of the general commercial and industrial interests of his home town. He and his wife are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church, of which for three years he served as a member of the board of trustees; he is treasurer of the local council of the Knights of Columbus (No. 1272) and is affiliated with the local lodges of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Modern Woodmen. On June 15, 1909, at St. Marys, Louis G. Helpling was united in marriage to Kathryn Axe, daughter of George and Rose (Taft) Axe, of that city, and to this union four children have been born, namely: Frederick, born on March 18, 1910; John B., July 10, 1911; Virginia, September 4, 1914, and Martha Rose, January 30, 1923, the elder of whom are attending St. Joseph's school. The Helplings have a very pleasant home at 404 West Benton street.

JOHN W. WHEELER, who died at his home in the immediate vicinity of Buckland in the spring of 1914, was one of Logan township's best known farmers and a man of influence in the community in which all his life had been spent. It, therefore, is but fitting that in this history of the county in which his life's labors were performed, some modest tribute should be paid to the good memory he left at his passing. Mr. Wheeler was born on a farm in the Buckland neighborhood on September 19, 1861, and was a son of Maline and Elizabeth Wheeler, who were among the pioneers of that community. Reared on that farm, John W. Wheeler grew to manhood there, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and when twenty-two years of age was married. After his marriage he became engaged in farming on his own account in that neighborhood and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on April 10, 1914. He was a member of the Christian church, as is his widow, and was also affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of

Pythias. It was on December 15, 1883, that John W. Wheeler was united in marriage to Alva A. Gochenour, also a member of one of the pioneer families of the Buckland neighborhood, and to that union were born five children, Bessie, Robert, Leona, Florence and Louella, all of whom are married save Robert. Bessie Wheeler married Otto Niswonger, of Wapakoneta, and has three children, Catherine, Roy and Howard. Leona Wheeler married Marion Baker, who is now looking after the affairs of Mrs. Wheeler's farm in the vicinity of Buckland, and has one child, a son, Robert. Florence Wheeler married C. J. Sullivan, of Detroit, Mich., and has one child, a daughter, Virginia, and Louella Wheeler married Daniel Brookhart. Since the death of her husband Mrs. Wheeler has continued to make her home on the farm just outside of Buckland, where she is very comfortably situated. She was born in that vicinity and is a daughter of John H. and Sarah C. (Weaver) Gochenour, who were married in Champaign county, this state, in 1853, and who, in 1859, came to Auglaize county and settled on a pioneer farm along the river on the south line of Logan township at the site of the historic spring, where old Chief Whitefeather had his Indian village in the days long gone and where Buckland came to be laid out when the railroad came along in the middle '70s. John H. Gochenour was a Virginian by birth, born in Shenandoah county, in the Old Dominion, January 13, 1835. Four years later his father died and his mother married John Dingledine, who, in 1849, came to Ohio with his family and settled in Champaign county, later coming up into Auglaize county and settling in Logan township. John H. Gochenour was but fourteen years of age when he came to Ohio and in Champaign county he learned the carpenter's trade. He married at the age of eighteen years and continued to make his home in Champaign county until in 1859, when, as noted above, he came to this county and settled on a woodland tract along the river in Logan township. As he got that tract partially cleared and developed he added to his holdings and as his affairs prospered bought other lands until he became the owner of more than 400 acres of land and was reputed one of the most substantial farmers of that neighborhood. He was a Democrat, one of the leaders of that party in Logan township, and for seven years (1893-1900) served as treasurer of the township. When the preliminary survey of the railroad was made through that part of the county, Mr. Gochenour, in association with his neighbor, Josiah Clawson, had a town site platted on their respective lands on either side of the proposed right of way and to this plat gave the name of Whitefeather, in honor of the Indian Chief, who formerly had his village there. When the railroad station afterward was established at that town site the railroad company gave the name of Buckland to the place, in honor of General

Buckland, of Fremont, one of the promoters of the road, and later by legal process the name of the village was formally changed from Whitefeather to Buckland. In 1874, Mr. Gochenour platted an addition to this town site and afterward filed three further additions. When the village was incorporated, in 1892, Mr. Gochenour was elected a member of the first town board. He and his wife were the parents of two daughters, Mrs. Wheeler and her sister, Jeanette.

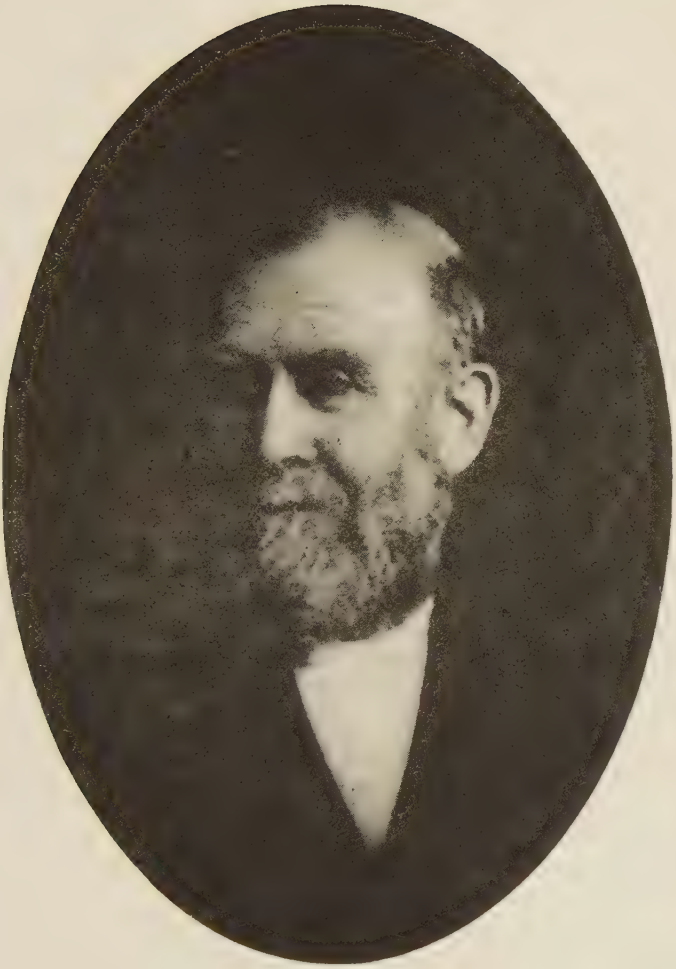
ABRAHAM B. ZERKEL, a former trustee of Logan township and one of the well known farmers and landowners of that township, proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 4 out of Lima, was born on a pioneer woodland farm in section 24 of Logan township, about two miles east of the river, May 9, 1852, and is a son of Lewis and Elizabeth (Neese) Zerkel, who had settled there upon coming up into this county from Clark county some years before, and who thus became numbered among the pioneers of that part of Auglaize county. Lewis Zerkel was born in Clark county, Ohio, a member of one of the pioneer families that had settled there upon moving west from Virginia, and after his marriage established his home there, remaining there until 1848, the year in which Auglaize county was organized, when he came up here with his family and entered from the Government an "eighty" in the lower half of section 24 of Logan township and settled down there to make a farm out of this woodland tract. He did well in his operations and later added to his land holdings until he became the owner of a good farm of 140 acres, and on that place spent his last days, one of the useful pioneers of the neighborhood. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, of whom four are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Sarah, and two brothers, Lafayette and A. Zerkel. Reared on the home farm in the northeast part of Logan township, Abraham B. Zerkel received his schooling in the school district No. 1 in the immediate vicinity of his home, and from the days of his boyhood was devoted to the affairs of the farm. When he reached his majority he bought a tract of forty acres in that neighborhood and started in to clear the same and make a farm out of it, and after his marriage established his home on that place. Mr. Zerkel has been successful in his farming operations, and now is the owner of a fine farm of 155 acres, all of which lies in Logan township, with the exception of a tract of fifteen acres over the line in Allen county. It was on May 28, 1879, that Abraham B. Zerkel was united in marriage to Delilah Wiesenmeyer, also a member of one of the old families in that neighborhood, and to this union three children have been born, Bertha, Daisy and Fredericka, the latter of whom married Louis Bowersock and has five children, Ralph, Delilah, Louis, Jennie and Eunice. Bertha Zerkel married David Zimmerman and has two children, Raymond and

Doris, the former of whom married Goldie Shaffer and has one child, Audrey Bernice. Daisy Zerkel married Eldon Shappel and had eight children, of whom five are living, Eunice, Evadora, Adrian, Helen and Marjorie. The Zerkels have a pleasant home and have ever taken a helpful part in the general social activities of the neighborhood in which they live. Mr. and Mrs. Zerkel are members of the Lutheran church at Cridersville and their children have been reared in that faith. Mr. Zerkel is a Democrat and has for years been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in his part of the county, he having served for several terms as a member of the board of trustees of Logan township.

JAMES E. WHEELER, one of Logan township's veteran farmers and a substantial landowner of that township, now living retired at Buckland, was born on a pioneer farm in that township and has lived there all his life, a period of more than seventy years, thus being personally familiar with all the details of the amazing development that has taken place there since the days of his childhood. Mr. Wheeler was born on September 26, 1851, and is a son of Horace and Mary (Trotter) Wheeler, who were among the pioneers of that part of Auglaize county. Horace Wheeler was born in Licking county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood and was married. He made his home there until the spring of 1851, when he came with his family over into Auglaize county and settled on a farm of 123 acres which he bought a mile and a half west of the river, in Logan township, a bit north of west of the old Whitefeather Indian village, where Buckland came to be laid out when the railroad came along more than twenty years later. It was on May 2, 1851, that Horace Wheeler established himself in this county. He was a good farmer and gradually added to his land holdings until he became the owner of 310 acres in Logan township and was regarded as one of the substantial men of that community. On that place he lived for many years, or until his removal to a farm in the near vicinity of Spencerville, where he died, not long afterward, in 1909. He was twice married and by his union with Mary Trotter was the father of six children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch and his brother, Franklin Wheeler, the deceased children of this family having been Catherine, William, Cynthia and Orlinda. By his second marriage, to Johanna Bitters, Horace Wheeler was the father of four children, Albert, Almira, Mary and Jesse. Reared on the home farm west of Buckland, James E. Wheeler grew to manhood there, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and remained on the home place until his marriage at the age of twenty-two, when he bought a tract of eighty-six acres in that same township and there established his home, continuing to farm that place

until his retirement in 1899, when he moved to Buckland, where he has since resided. James E. Wheeler has been twice married. On December 3, 1873, he was united in marriage to Rachel Burnfield, also of Logan township, who died in December, 1887. To that union were born six children, all of whom are living save one (Horace D), the others being William, Charles T., Jacob F., Mary Jane and Myrtle. On December 26, 1890, Mr. Wheeler married Nancy M. Sutton, who was born at Columbus Grove, in Putnam county, this state, and to this union ten children have been born, Edna, Mildred, Delsadia, Robert, Alva, Carl, James, Horace, Sarah and Eugene. Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler are members of the Christian church and are Democrats. Mr. Wheeler is affiliated with the local tent of the Knights of Maccabees.

DAVID GILMER, a veteran of the Civil war and a substantial farmer and landowner of Wayne township, who died at his home in that township in the spring of 1908, was a member of one of the real pioneer families of that township and had resided there all his life. Mr. Gilmer was born on a pioneer farm in the northwest corner of Wayne township on October 1, 1841, this being in the days when Wayne township was included within the confines of Allen county, seven years before the erection of Auglaize county. His parents, Allen and Kezia (McCormick) Gilmer, were among the early settlers of that region, having come here in 1833, the year following the departure of the Indians from this section of the state. Allen Gilmer was a native of Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, born in 1801, who had settled in Knox county, Ohio, whence he came to this part of the state, attracted by the new lands being opened for settlement here, and entered from the Government the northwest quarter of section 6 of Wayne township, where he established his home and where he spent the remainder of his life. He thus was one of the real pioneers of this part of the county and took an active part in the organization of the township, being a member of the first board of trustees elected for that township. He also served for years as a justice of the peace in and for Wayne township and in other ways served the community in pioneer days. Allen Gilmer and wife were the parents of six children, James A., Mary J., Sylvania, David, Livonia and John A., the latter of whom (occupying a part of the old home place in the northwest corner of the township) alone survives. James A. Gilmer, the eldest son, was a soldier of the Union during the Civil war and was killed at the battle of Knoxville. David Gilmer grew to manhood on the pioneer home farm in section 6 and in the days of his boyhood took an active part in the labors of clearing and developing the same. In May, 1864, during the progress of the Civil war, he enlisted in the call for three-months service and was attached to Company D of the 151st regi-



DAVID GILMER

ment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Upon the completion of this service he returned to the farm and after his marriage established his home there, not long afterward buying 112 acres of the home place, where he spent the remainder of his life actively engaged in farming, his death occurring there on May 8, 1908, he then being in the sixty-seventh year of his age, and his widow has continued to make her home there, where she is very comfortably situated. Mrs. Gilmer is a member of the Protestant Methodist church at Waynesfield, of which her husband also was a member, and has ever taken an earnest interest in church work. She was born, Belle Hillerman, at Covington, Ky., daughter of George and Mary Ann (Adams) Hillerman. To David and Belle (Hillerman) Gilmer were born four children, Kate, John S., Norma I. and Mabel Ann, all of whom are living save the first named, who died when twelve years of age. Norma I. Gilmer married Charles McCormick and has three children, David L., Mabel J. and Charles R. John S. and Mabel A. Gilmer continue to make their home with their mother on the old home place. The Gilmer home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis.

WILLIAM M. FOCHT, a member of one of the pioneer families of Auglaize county and a substantial farmer and landowner of Wayne township, proprietor of a well kept farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of Waynesfield, was born on a farm in Union township, this county, April 12, 1868, and is a son of Daniel and Maria (Justice) Focht, who were among the well known pioneers of that township. Daniel Focht was born in Schuylkill county, Pennsylvania, and was twenty-two years of age when he came to Ohio with his parents, Adam and Susanna Focht, in 1836, the family settling on a farm of 240 acres which Adam Focht had bought along Little Wrestle creek in sections 14 and 15 of Union township, which then was comprised within the bounds of Allen county, but which, in 1848, became a part of Auglaize county. Adam Focht and his wife were married on January 2, 1810, and upon their arrival here had ten children, those besides Daniel having been Samuel, John, William, Susan, Mary, Jacob, Louis, Adam and Matilda, all now deceased, this considerable family thus being widely represented hereabout in the present generation. With the assistance of his sons, Adam Focht developed a good piece of property there along the creek and was accounted one of the leading pioneers of that neighborhood. He died there in 1853. Daniel Focht helped clear and develop the pioneer farm which his father had opened and after his marriage, in 1855, to Maria Justice, established his home there and in time became the owner of all the home place, where he continued farming the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1895. He was a good farmer and built up a good place. He also was properly active in the gen-

eral affairs of the community and from time to time held various township offices. To him and his wife were born twelve children, all of whom are living save three, who died in childhood, and George, who died in 1918, the subject of this sketch having five sisters, Jane, Hannah, Dora, Enola and Leora, and two brothers, Jacob and Floyd Focht. Reared on the home farm in Union township, William M. Focht received his schooling in the neighborhood district school and remained on the farm until he was nineteen years of age, when he went West and located in Iowa, where he remained until 1890, when he went to Colorado. In 1893, he returned to Auglaize county and took over the operation of the home place on a rental basis and continued thus engaged, following his father's death, until 1899, when he bought a farm of eighty acres in Union township and upon his marriage in the next year, established his home there. For fifteen years Mr. Focht continued to live on that place and then he bought the farm of eighty acres on which he is now living in Wayne township and has since made his home on this latter place, he and his family being very comfortably situated there. Mr. Focht has a well improved farm and a well equipped farm plant and is doing well in his operations. It was on February 17, 1900, that William M. Focht was united in marriage to Nancy Smith, who was born in Missouri, daughter of Samuel and Livonia (Gilmer) Smith, and to this union have been born four children, Grace, Vane, Clarence and Ralph, all of whom are at home save the second named. Vane Focht married Victor Earl and is living in Wayne township.

JAMES A. HARROD, one of the large landowners of Auglaize county and a well-known farmer of Union township, living on his place between the creeks in section 4, in the northern part of the township, was born on that place and is a member of one of the real pioneer families of this region, the Harrods having been here since the year following the opening of lands to settlement upon the departure of the Indians ninety years ago. Within three years (1833-36), according to the tract book, there were no fewer than ten Harrods who entered lands in Union township, which then was included within the confines of Allen county, these having been James, Michael, David, Richard, Levi, William, Daniel, Jacob, John and Elizabeth Harrod, so that the Harrod connection hereabout in the present generation is an extensive one. James A. Harrod was born on August 4, 1859, and is a son of William C. and Phoebe D. (Jacobs) Harrod, the latter of whom also was a member of one of the old families of Union township, the Jacobs having been among the earliest permanent settlers of the valley of Wrestle creek, there at the headwaters of the Auglaize. William C. Harrod was born in Knox county, this state, December 3, 1832, and was but three years

of age when his parents, John and Eliza Harrod, came here in 1836 and settled in Union township, joining others of the family who had made settlement there somewhat prior to that time. John Harrod entered from the Government a quarter section and established his home on this woodland tract, where he developed the makings of an excellent farm and spent the remainder of his life, one of the useful pioneers of that section. On that farm his son, William, grew to manhood. Announcement of the discovery of gold in California in 1849 caught William Harrod at the adventurous age, and when twenty years of age he started overland for the new Eldorado with a party of other goldseekers. For five years he remained in the West and then returned home, but two years later he returned to California, where he remained two years, at the end of which time he came back and bought a half section of land along the creek in the northern part of Union township (section 4). Then he married and settled down on this farm and proceeded to develop and improve the same, continuing a resident of that township until his death. To him and his wife were born five children, two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Samuel Harrod. There were two daughters, Sallie and Annabel, and another son, Charles Harrod. Reared on the farm on which he was born and where he is now living, James A. Harrod received his schooling in the neighborhood school (district No. 2) and remained at home until he had attained his majority, when he bought a tract of eighty acres up over the line in Allen county and started in to make a farm out of it. He was engaged in clearing and developing that place for five years, or until his marriage, when he rented the home acres from his father and established his home on the old home place, where he ever since has resided. Nine years after thus taking charge of this place he inherited 240 acres of the farm, and since then he has added to his land holdings until now he is the owner of no less than 600 acres, all of which lies in this county save his original "eighty" up in Allen county and an eighty he owns in New Mexico, taken on as an investment. It was in October, 1885, that James A. Harrod was united in marriage to Eva Greer, and to this union have been born six children, all of whom are living save two, Fred, who died on January 12, 1919, and a daughter, Frankie, who died in infancy, the others being Jennie, Clarence, Victoria and Owen. Clarence Harrod married Pauline Stimmel. The Harrods have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 6 out of Lima. In his political views Mr. Harrod is a Democrat. Mrs. Eva Harrod was born in Knox county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Jacob and Angeline (Biggs) Greer, both of whom also were born in Ohio. For some time after their marriage, Jacob Greer and his wife lived in Knox county, and

then, in 1873, moved to a farm in Allen county, where they remained for about twenty years, at the end of which time they moved to Creston, Iowa. Twelve years later they moved back to Knox county, this state, where Mrs. Greer died. Mr. Greer later made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Harrod, where his last days were spent.

FERDINAND F. EDMISTON, a widely known auctioneer and dealer in real estate and the owner of a well improved farm northeast of Wapakoneta, in Duchouquet township, where he makes his home, was born in this county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Edmiston was born on a farm along the river in the northwestern part of Union township on June 5, 1874, and is a son of Shelby and Sophia (Dotson) Edmiston, who in their generation were among the best known and most influential residents of that part of the county. The late Shelby Edmiston also was born in this county, in Duchouquet township, and was a son of David C. and Caroline Edmiston, pioneers, who came here during the settlement period and became well established in that part of the county, David C. Edmiston having been the owner of more than 200 acres of land and one of the substantial citizens of the county. He was a Tennesseean by birth and it was in 1843 that he came to what is now Auglaize county and settled on a tract of land which he had entered in Duchouquet township, which then was a part of Allen county. Here he spent the remainder of his life. He had eight children and the Edmiston connection hereabout in the present generation is a considerable one. Shelby Edmiston grew up on a pioneer farm here and after his marriage became engaged in farming on his own account. He also, for years, operated a saw mill, established a successful tile factory and also operated a threshing rig, and was, as well, a considerable landowner, the possessor at one time and another of six or seven farms in this county. His last days were spent here, his death occurring in 1909. Shelby Edmiston and wife were the parents of eleven children, all of whom are living save four, Louisa and Gertrude and two who died in infancy, the others (beside the subject of this sketch) being McClellan, Clason, Viola, Alma, Joseph and Corbet. Reared on the home farm in the northwestern part of Union township, Ferdinand F. Edmiston received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood, and from the days of his boyhood was engaged with his father in the labors of the farm and in the activities of the mill and the threshing rig. He made his home on the home place until his marriage, when in his nineteenth year, when he started out "on his own," giving his particular attention to the threshing industry and to the sale of farm machinery, gradually working into the line to which he now gives his special attention, and in which he has long been engaged, auctioneering and the dealing in real estate, in both

of which lines he is widely known throughout this and neighboring counties. In 1918 Mr. Edmiston bought the farm of sixty-five acres on which he is now living, in Duchouquet township, and has since made his home there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. It was in January, 1893, that Ferdinand F. Edmiston was united in marriage to Tena Buchanan, also a member of one of the old families of this county, daughter of John and Eliza Buchanan, and to this union have been born four daughters, Blanche, Ethel, Ida and Fannie, all of whom are married save the last named. Blanche Edmiston married Dennis Dudgeon and has two children, Chloe and Mildred. Ethel Edmiston married Granville Pepill and has one child, Jennette, and Ida Edmiston married Carl Gossard and has one child, a daughter, Margaret. The Edmistons have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 9 out of Wapakoneta. Mr. and Mrs. Edmiston are members of the United Brethren church.

NEHEMIAH SPRAGUE, who died at his home in Duchouquet township in the summer of 1921, had lived there for many years and at his passing left a good memory, for he was a good citizen. It therefore is but fitting that there should here be set out some modest tribute to that memory. Mr. Sprague was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of Grand Rapids, Mich., July 18, 1846, and was a son of Henry and Margaret (Tyson) Sprague, both of whom were members of pioneer families in this section of Ohio. Henry Sprague had come to what is now Auglaize county with his parents when but a lad, and here had grown up and married. For some years after his marriage he made his home in the vicinity of Grand Rapids, Mich., and then returned to Auglaize county and bought a farm in Logan township. After some years of residence there he went to Kansas, and in that state spent the remainder of his life. To him and his wife were born twelve children, of whom six are still living. Nehemiah Sprague was eight years of age when his parents returned to Auglaize county, in 1854, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Logan township, completing his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. When twenty-four years of age he married and bought a tract of twenty acres in the southwest quarter of section 5 of Duchouquet township, and on that place established his home and spent the remainder of his life. As he prospered in his affairs Mr. Sprague added to his land holdings until he became the owner of an excellent farm of 100 acres, which he succeeded in bringing to a high state of cultivation, and on which he had a well-equipped farm plant. He and his wife made their start there in a log cabin which he built in the woods, and in which they made their home until he had effected his clearing and got the farm in shape for the improvements befitting his rising circumstances, and in due time they had a

very pleasant home there. The old home place is still maintained under the direction of the family. Mr. Sprague did well his part in the general movements attendant on the development of his section of the county and for several years served as supervisor of highway construction in his district. He and his wife were members of the Christian church and ever took a proper part in church work and in the general good works of the community in which they lived. It was in 1870 that Nehemiah Sprague was united in marriage to Sarah E. Kelly, who was born at New Hampshire, in this county, daughter of James and Rachel (Caldwell) Kelly, pioneers of that settlement, and to this union were born four children, two of whom, Herman and Lola, are still living. Mrs. Sprague, in her younger days was widely known throughout the county as a school teacher. She died on July 21, 1901, and Mr. Sprague survived her for almost twenty years, his death occurring on July 15, 1921, he then being three days under seventy-five years of age. Herman Sprague, who is now living at Toledo, married Catherine Frier and has two children, Harry and Evadna, the latter of whom married Norman Brady and has one child, a daughter, Ellen.

LEVI RINEHART, a former trustee of Union township and one of the best known and most substantial farmers and landowners of that township, was born in Union township, a member of one of the real pioneer families in that part of the county, and has lived there all his life. Mr. Rinehart was born on October 27, 1873, and is a son of Arnold P. and Rebecca (Harrod) Rinehart, both of whom were born in that same township, the Rineharts and the Harrods having been among the early settlers there, and who are now living retired at Uniopolis. Arnold P. Rinehart was born on February 6, 1837, and is a son of Hugh T. and Julianna (Godfrey) Rinehart, who in the fall of the year prior to that date had come over here into western Ohio from Virginia and had settled in Union township, in what then was Allen county. Hugh T. Rinehart, as has been told elsewhere, became one of the most substantial and influential citizens of this county, a member of the first board of county commissioners elected in the new county of Auglaize in 1848, and in other ways active and influential in getting things going right here in the formative period of this region. He lived to a ripe old age, his death occurring in 1904. Of the eleven children born to him and his wife, three are still living, Arnold P. Rinehart having a sister, Sarah, and a brother, John A. Rinehart. Arnold P. Rinehart completed his schooling by attendance for five terms at the Ohio Wesleyan College at Delaware, and for seven years thereafter was engaged as a teacher in the schools of this county. In the meanwhile, when twenty years of age, he had married and settled on a farm of forty acres which his

father gave him. Later his father gave him an adjoining eighty, and as he prospered in his operation of this farm he added to his holdings until he became the owner of 400 acres. He continued actively engaged in farming until 1901, when he left the farm and moved to Uniopolis, where he bought the grist mill and was engaged in milling there for three years, at the end of which time he turned the mill over to his sons and then gave his personal attention to the grain business, buying the grain elevator there, which he operated for ten years, or until his retirement, and has since made his home at Uniopolis, where he is now living, in his eighty-sixth year. On September 25, 1857, Arnold P. Rinehart married Rebecca Harrod, daughter of Levi and Martha Harrod, and to this union eleven children were born, eight of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Alice and Edna, and five brothers, Arnold E., Frank F., W. Otto, John E. and Fred Rinehart. As these children are married and have families of their own, the aggregated families have given Arnold P. Rinehart and his wife no fewer than thirty-eight grandchildren and thirty-six great-grandchildren. Arnold P. Rinehart was for eighteen years justice of the peace in and for his home township. He also has served as township clerk and treasurer, and for thirty years as a member of the school board. Levi Rinehart was reared on the old home farm in Union township and his schooling was received in the neighborhood schools. The height of the gas and oil boom was on about the time he had reached the age of individual activity, and until his marriage he was engaged working in the oil fields hereabout. He married when twenty-one years of age and then established his home on a "forty" owned by his wife, a part of the John R. White place, about six miles northeast of Uniopolis, and there lived for seven years, at the end of which time he sold that place and bought 100 acres of the farm on which he is now living, and where he ever since has resided. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Rinehart not only has improved the place in up-to-date fashion, but has added to his holdings by further purchase until now he has a fine farm of 320 acres and one of the best farm plants in that part of the county, he and his family being very comfortably situated in their pleasant home there on rural mail route No. 6 out of Wapakoneta. Mr. Rinehart is one of the leading Democrats of Union township and has rendered public service as a member of the board of township trustees, in which capacity he served for four years. It was on April 20, 1895, that Levi Rinehart was united in marriage to Alice White, daughter of John R. and Sarah White, of Union township, and to this union have been born seven children, Emmons D., Lois K., Donald C., Carl D., Mabel, John H. and Mildred L., the first named of whom married Ada Blank and

has one child, a son, Dewey. Emmons D. Rinehart is a veteran of the World war, his service having been rendered in the Marine Corps, with which he served for ten months in Carribean waters, with his station in Cuba.

THOMAS FRAZIER, a veteran of the Civil war and one of the best known farmers of Duchouquet township, proprietor of an excellent farm along the river, just below the mouth of Blackhoof creek, in the southwest quarter of section 12, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since he was eleven years of age, a period of nearly seventy years, and has thus been a witness to the development of this region since pioneer days. Mr. Frazier was born in Pickaway county on November 8, 1844, and is a son of John and Mahalia (Woodell) Frazier, who later became pioneers of Auglaize county. John Frazier also was born in Ohio, a member of one of the pioneer families of Fairfield county, where he grew to manhood and was married. He later made his home for some time in Pickaway county and then moved up into Putnam county, where he remained for six years, or until 1856, when he came with his family to Auglaize county and bought an uncleared tract of 100 acres on the western border of Union township, just southwest of Uniopolis, where he established his home and spent the remainder of his life, clearing and developing the place, to which he added until he was the owner of a farm of 118 acres. He and his wife were the parents of two children, the subject of this sketch having had a sister, Rebecca, now deceased. Thomas Frazier was eleven years of age when he came to Auglaize county with his parents in 1856 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the Uniopolis neighborhood, a useful factor in the labors of clearing and developing that place, and was living there when the Civil war broke out. In the spring of 1864 he entered the service of the Union army as a substitute and served for five months as a private in the 156th Ohio infantry regiment, during which period of service he participated in the battle of the Cumberland. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Frazier returned to the farm and was there engaged in farming until his marriage two years later, at the age of twenty-two, when he bought a "forty" in Union township and started in farming on his own account. For three years he made his home on that place and then, in 1870, traded that farm for a tract of fifty acres along the river in section 12 of Duchouquet township, a part of the farm on which he is now living, and has ever since resided on this latter place, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of that place Mr. Frazier has improved it in proper shape and also has enlarged his holdings until he now has a well improved farm of 137 acres. He is a Republican, a member of

the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and he and his wife are members of the United Brethren church at Cridersville. It was on January 17, 1867, that Thomas Frazier was united in marriage to Minerva Speese, who was born in Union township, this county, daughter of Andrew and Sarah Ann (Fleming) Speese and a member of the pioneer Speese family who were included among the early settlers of this county, and to this union five children have been born, two of whom—Anna and Jennie—are deceased, the others being Ella, Charles and Lillie, all of whom are married. Ella Frazier married Otto Buchanan, now living at Wapakoneta, and has three children, Florence, Lulu and Lillie, the first named of whom married Frank Sheipline and has one child, a daughter, Edna. Lulu Buchanan married Arthur Blank and has two children, Howard and Herbert. Charles Frazier married Jennie Burden and has had ten children, all of whom are living save two (Clyde and Scott), the others being Pearl, Raymond, Carl, Marie, John, Ellen, Walter and Irvin. Pearl Frazier married Orlie Bowersock and has one child, Dial. Lillie Frazier, now the wife of Elmer Smith, has been twice married, her first husband, Sloan Hardin, having died, leaving her one child, a daughter, Margaret. Anna Frazier (deceased) married Elza Orr and at her death left three children, Harley, Jerome and Ethel. The Fraziers have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 9 out of Wapakoneta, about five miles northeast of the city, and their long establishment there has given them a wide acquaintance throughout that part of the county.

JOSEPH M. BLACKBURN, a veteran of the Civil war and a well-known farmer and former landowner of Logan township, now living retired at Buckland, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since he was six years of age, a period of more than seventy years, during which time he has been a witness to the development of this region almost from its primitive state, for when he became a resident of Logan township there had been very little actual development work done there. Mr. Blackburn was born in Carroll county, Ohio, May 16, 1844, and is a son of George and Charlotte (Weber) Blackburn, who later became established as among the pioneers of Auglaize county, residents of the old Whitefeather neighborhood (now Buckland), and whose last days were spent here. George Blackburn was born in Columbiana county, Ohio, a member of one of the pioneer families over there on the eastern border of the state, and became a farmer and blacksmith. After his marriage he for some time made his home in the adjoining county of Carroll, and then, in 1850, two years after the erection of Auglaize county, moved over here and bought a tract of something more than 160 acres of land on the lower line of Logan

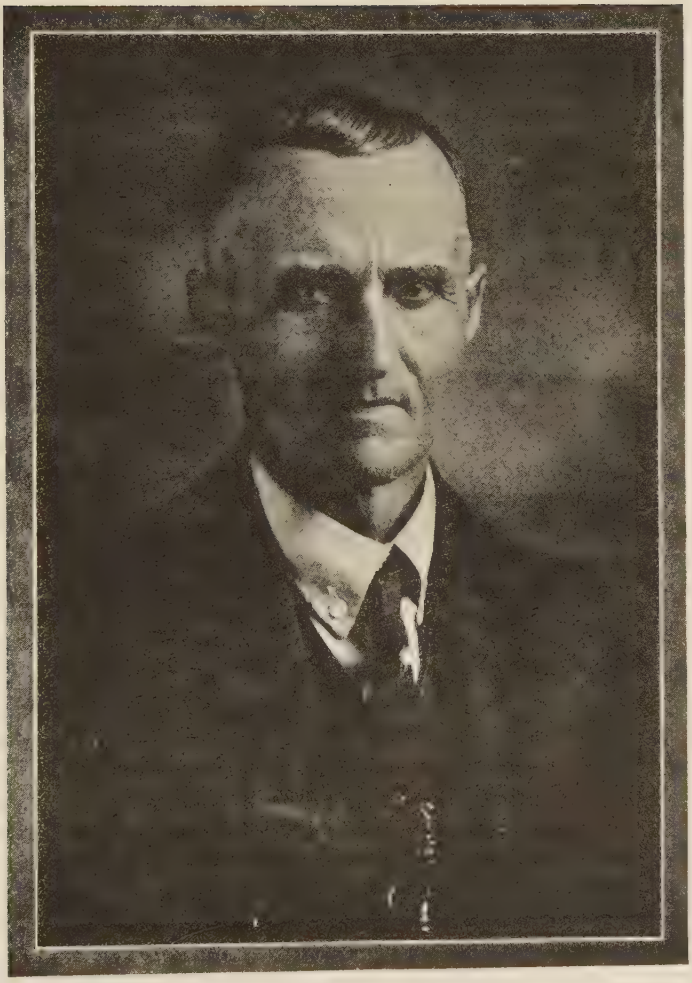
township, about a mile west of the river, just west of the old Whitefeather Indian village, the site of the present village of Buckland, which was laid out there upon the coming of the railroad in the middle '70s. On that place George Blackburn established his home, made a good farm out of his woodland tract and there spent the rest of his life, one of the influential pioneers of that section of the county. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch and his sister, Miranda. As will be noted above, Joseph M. Blackburn was but six years of age when he came to this county with his parents, in 1850, and he grew to manhood on the home place in Logan township. He received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the farm. He was living there when the Civil war broke out, and in May, 1864, enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company G of the Ohio National Guard, and with that command served for six months, or until his discharge in the following September, during this period of service taking part in the historic engagement at Cumberland Gap. Upon the completion of his military service, Mr. Blackburn returned to the farm, and after his marriage, in the spring of 1874, established his home there, taking over the operations of the farm, of which he became the owner, and there he continued to make his home until his retirement in 1916 and removal to Buckland, where he has since resided. Several years ago he sold his farm of 207 acres. Mr. Blackburn is a member of the local post of the Grand Army of the Republic and has for years taken an active interest in the affairs of that patriotic order. It was on March 30, 1874, that Joseph M. Blackburn was united in marriage to Susan Titus, of Salem township, this county, and to this union nine children have been born, Frank, Clifford (deceased), Rufus, Clarence, Lucy (who died in infancy), Guy, Grace, Rhoda and Gurn, the latter of whom is unmarried. The late Clifford Blackburn married Adda Pence and died leaving two children, Edwin and Burnetta. Mrs. Susan Blackburn was born in Galia county, Ohio, and was but a child when she came to Auglaize county with her parents, Louis and Susan (Nye) Titus, the family settling in Salem township, where she grew to womanhood and was married. Frank Blackburn, the eldest son of this family, married Alice Bobrink and is now living at Tampa, Fla. Rufus Blackburn, who is now living at Tiffin, Ohio, married Cora Barber and has four children, Loretta, Francis, Lowell and True. Clarence Blackburn, who is now living in Clermont county, Ohio, married Virginia Cook and has three children, Curtis, Olin and Eugene. Guy Blackburn, who is now living in Alabama, married Electa Bowman and has one child,

a son, Guy Jr. Grace Blackburn married Earl Swartzbaugh, of this county, and has one child, a daughter, Elizabeth, and Rhoda Blackburn married Earl Edward, also of this county, and has two children, Winfield and Catherine.

ENOS NEESE, a former trustee of Logan township and a well-known farmer and landowner of that township, proprietor of a well-improved farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of Hume, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since he was five years of age, a period of nearly sixty-five years, and has thus witnessed the development of this region since pioneer days. Mr. Neese was born in Clark county, Ohio, October 24, 1853, and is a son of Ambrose and Sarah (Lutz) Neese, who later became numbered among the pioneers of Auglaize county, they having settled here in the days before the Civil war. Ambrose Neese was a Virginian by birth and was but a lad when his parents, John G. Neese and wife, left the Old Dominion with their family and came over into Ohio, settling on a farm in Champaign county, where they established their home and spent the remainder of their lives. On that pioneer farm Ambrose Neese grew to manhood. He early took up the carpenters' trade, and after his marriage established his home in Clark county, where he remained until 1858, when he came up into Auglaize county and settled on a farm of 192 acres which he bought in Logan township. In 1869 he moved back to Champaign county, but remained there only a year at the end of which time he returned to Auglaize county and bought a tract of 100 acres in the southeast quarter of section 28 of Logan township, about a mile west of the river, and there continued engaged in farming until his retirement in 1885, since which time the farm has been under the management of his son, Enos, who bought the place upon his father's death and has since owned it. Ambrose Neese and wife were the parents of four children, all of whom are living save one, a daughter, Mary, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Amanda, and a brother, William Neese. As noted above, Enos Neese was five years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1858, and he grew to manhood in Logan township. He received his schooling in the district schools, and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the farm. He remained with his father during the days of his young manhood, helpful in the labors of developing the home farm, and after his marriage established his home on that place and assumed the management of the farm, his father retiring at that time. After his father's death he bought from the other heirs their respective interests in the place and has since continued to make his home there, though of late years practically retired from the active operations of the farm,

which is now being operated by his son-in-law, Pearl Cook. Mr. Neese did well in his farming operations and years ago added to the home place an adjoining tract of thirty acres, this giving him a fine farm of 130 acres. He and his family have a comfortable home and are pleasantly situated. They are members of the Christian church. Mr. Neese is a Democrat and for six years served as a trustee of Logan township. It was on June 11, 1885, that Enos Neese was united in marriage to Matilda Wiesenmeyer, who was born in the neighboring county of Allen, and to this union one child has been born, a daughter, Zelma, who married Pearl Cook, a member of one of the old families of Auglaize county, and has one child, a son, Richard Eugene Cook. As noted above, Pearl Cook is now operating the Neese farm, and he and his family make their home with Mr. and Mrs. Neese.

ELSWORTH BURDEN, senior member of the firm of Burden Bros., proprietors of the old Burden saw mill at Wapakoneta, this firm being regarded as among the leading lumber concerns in this part of the state, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Burden was born on a farm east of Wapakoneta, in Duchoquet township, March 23, 1866, and is a son of John M. and Rachel (Bechdolt) Burden, natives of Pennsylvania, who had come here with their respective parents in pioneer days and had married here. John M. Burden was a cabinet maker by trade and also farmed for some time. He was a good lumberman and twenty-five years and more ago he started a saw mill at Wapakoneta, the mill now being operated by his sons, and continued actively engaged in this business until his sons took over the plant six years ago. Elsworth Burden completed his schooling in the old Third Ward school building (Williamson school) at Wapakoneta and as a young man began working as a farm hand, continuing thus engaged for about four years, during which time he was married. He then began farming for himself, as a renter, and was thus engaged for ten years, at the end of which time he moved to Wapakoneta and began working as a teamster at his father's mill. In 1908 he began buying timber on his own account, for shipping, and was thus actively employed until in 1916, when he and his brother, Fred Burden, bought their father's mill and have since been operating the same. In that same year Fred Burden established a mill at New Bremen—the Burden & Salms mill—and with both plants running practically full time since then have been doing an extensive business, about forty persons all told being employed in the two plants. The specialty of the Wapakoneta mill is the manufacture of timber for heavy construction work and there is a wide demand for the products of the mill. Mr. Burden is a Republican and he and his wife are members of the English Lutheran church. It was on March 27,



ELSWORTH BURDEN

1886, when just past twenty years of age, that Elsworth Burden was united in marriage to Anna Morris, who was born in Union township, this county, daughter of Henry and Helena (Hartung) Morris, and to this union ten children have been born, all of whom are living save one, John Henry, who died in infancy, the others being Effie, Harry, Emma, Ferd, Della, Antoinette, Luther, Marie and Helena, all of whom are married save Della, Marie and Helena. The eldest daughter, Effie Burden, married Vernon Kantner, of Wapakoneta, and has one child, Aldo. Harry Burden, who is a sawyer at the mill, married Frances Fricke and has three children, Milford, Eugene and Urban. Emma Burden married Anthony Eckensweiler, who is employed at the wheel works, and has three children, Alma, Leona and Ellen L. Ferd Burden, who is a cigar maker at Wapakoneta, married Hazel Frey and has six children, Vesta, Rowland, Marcella, Roger, Ned and Paul, besides one, Harry D., who died in infancy. Antoinette Burden married Dewey Harshbarger, now an employe of the Studebaker Auto Company at South Bend, Ind., and is living in that city, and Luther Burden, who is employed in his father's mill, married Evelyn Emerson.

FRANCIS GURNEY KREBS, a well-known farmer and landowner of Wayne township, has been a resident of that township all his life. Mr. Krebs was born in the village of Waynesfield on December 27, 1865, and is a son of Dr. Rufus I. and Lucina (Myers) Krebs, both now deceased, the latter of whom was born in Licking county, this state. The late Dr. Rufus I. Krebs, who for years was one of the best known and most influential among the citizens of the Waynesfield neighborhood, was born at Littletown, Pa., June 24, 1832, and was a son of Isaac and Esther Krebs, Virginians, who in 1846 returned to Virginia, settling at Winchester, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the latter dying in 1861, and the former in 1884. Rufus I. Krebs was fourteen years of age when he moved with his parents to Winchester, Va. He early became interested in the study of medicine, and under the preceptorship of Dr. Hugh H. McGuire was prepared for college. In 1853 he was graduated from the medical department of the University of Pennsylvania, and after a season of preliminary practice in the East came to Ohio and established himself in practice at Westminster, in Allen county. In 1858 Doctor Krebs gave up his office at Westminster and moved down into Auglaize county, locating at Waynesfield, where he continued active in practice until his retirement in 1885. Seeking relief by an outdoor life, the Doctor moved then to his farm north of Waynesfield, where he resided until 1897, when he returned to Waynesfield and in that pleasant village spent his last days, his death occurring there on January 19, 1900. To Dr. Rufus I. Krebs and wife were born three children, two of whom are living, the subject of this sketch

having a sister, Mrs. Jennie Harrod, wife of Ira Harrod. The deceased member of this family was the late Mrs. Laura L. Manchester, wife of Jason H. Manchester. Reared at Waynesfield, Francis G. Krebs, who is better known to his friends by his second name of Gurney, received his schooling in the excellent schools of that village and was about twenty years of age when his father moved to the farm north of town, where he became engaged in practical farming. He married when twenty-seven years of age and for two years thereafter rented his father's farm, and then moved to the farm on which he is now living in Wayne township and has since resided there. When Mr. Krebs bought this place the tract included eighty-one acres, but he recently for the accommodation of a neighbor sold a tract of fourteen acres off the place and now has sixty-seven acres, which is well improved and profitably cultivated. Mr. Krebs has a well-improved farm plant and is doing well in his operations. It was on March 30, 1892, that Gurney Krebs was united in marriage to Nellie McNutt, who was born in Lucas county, Ohio, daughter of the Rev. Aaron P. and Maria (Dixon) McNutt, and to this union have been born four children, Florence, Laura, Mack and Glenna, the two first named of whom are married. Florence Krebs married Ray McKee, now living at Milford, Ind., and has two children, Eva and Geraldine. Laura Krebs married Edward Shaw, of the neighboring county of Hardin, and has two children, Maxwell and Isabel. Mr. Krebs is a Democrat and he and his family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at Waynesfield, of which his father, Doctor Krebs, was for many years one of the leading members. The Krebs home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis.

CHARLES H. DIXON, a former member of the board of county commissioners for Auglaize county, a former trustee of Logan township, and one of the best known farmers of that township, proprietor of a well-kept farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Dixon was born on a farm in Licking county, Ohio, January 29, 1854, and is a son of Elijah and Mary Jane (Kuntz) Dixon, who later became residents of Auglaize county, and whose last days were spent here. The late Elijah Dixon, who for more than thirty years was a resident of Auglaize county, also was born in Licking county, this state, a son of William Dixon, a Virginian, who was one of the pioneers of that county. Elijah Dixon was reared in Licking county, and after his marriage established his home on a farm there. He remained there until in 1864, when he became attracted to the possibilities for development that then were so noticeably apparent over in this part

of the state, and he disposed of his interests in Licking county and moved to this county, he and his family and his essential household and agricultural impedimenta coming through in a Conestoga wagon, and settling on a farm of eighty acres on the north line of Moulton township, about a half mile west of where the railroad later was laid. Elijah Dixon cleared that land, made a good farm out of it and presently added an adjoining "forty" to his holdings, so that he came to be the owner of a fine farm of 120 acres, and on that place spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in April, 1896. He was twice married, and by his first wife (Mary Jane Kuntz) was the father of six children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Melissa, and a brother, George W. Dixon. The deceased children of this family were Minerva and two who died in infancy. Following the death of the mother of these children, Elijah Dixon married Hannah Fishburn, who survived him. Charles H. Dixon was ten years of age when he came to Auglaize county with his parents, in 1864, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Moulton township. He completed his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood, and when eighteen years of age was apprenticed to a carpenter for three years, thus learning the carpenter trade. He married when twenty-two years of age and then rented a farm in Moulton township, on which place he made his home for five years, at the end of which time he moved to a farm in Logan township, and on this latter place made his home for eight years, or until he bought the place in that same township on which he is now living. Mr. Dixon bought a tract of ninety-nine acres there, and later bought a small adjoining tract, and thus now has a farm of 115 acres, which he has improved in admirable shape, having one of the best and most up-to-date farm plants in the neighborhood. Mr. Dixon is a Democrat and has long been regarded as one of the leaders of that party in his part of the county. He rendered service for some time as one of the trustees of Logan township, and has also served two terms (1911-15) as a member of the board of county commissioners. It was during this incumbency that the disastrous flood of 1913 came, and it was thus that Mr. Dixon was able to render a valuable service to the county in the reconstruction of bridges which were washed out by that memorable flood. He and his wife are members of the Walnut Grove Methodist Episcopal church, and he is a member of the local tent of the Knights of the Maccabees at Wapakoneta. It was on August 6, 1876, that Charles H. Dixon was united in marriage to Dellana Warner, who was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and to this union have been born ten children, all of whom are living save one (Frederick), the others being Lulu, Bernard, William, Jesse,

Alice, Newton, Gezella, Opal and Bryan. Of these all are married save Gezella and Opal. Lulu Dixon married F. C. Garber and has four children, Bernard, Charles, Marjorie and Marvelee. Bernard Dixon married Lulu Garber and has three children, Ivan, Clifford and Ada. William Dixon married Emma Davis and has three children, Donald, Dana and William Jr. Jesse Dixon married Maxine Reed and has three children, Ruth, June and Wayne. Alice Dixon married Ferdinand Vorhees and has two children, Nina and Wanda. Newton Dixon married Florence Foster and has one child, a son, George, and Bryan Dixon married Fairy Vulgamott.

JOHN MOYER, one of the best known of the elder farmers of Wayne township and a substantial landowner of that township, living on rural mail route No. 1 out of Waynesfield, is a native of England but has been a resident of this country and of Auglaize county since he was ten years of age, a period of more than sixty-five years. Mr. Moyer was born in Lincolnshire, England, February 1, 1845, and is a son of Jeremiah and Maria (Farris) Moyer, both also natives of Lincolnshire, who in 1856 came with their family to the United States, landing at the port of New York on Christmas Day of that year. Jeremiah Moyer had come into possession of a tract of thirty acres of land in the northwestern part of Wayne township, this county, through the death of his brother, John Moyer, and upon his arrival in this country with his family proceeded on out here into Ohio and settled on that tract, where he established his home. He presently increased his holdings there to eighty acres and on that farm spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1880. His widow survived him more than twenty years, her death occurring in 1903. They were the parents of seven children, Thomas, John, William, Mary A., Elizabeth, Jeremiah and George, all of whom save the two last named were born in England and all of whom are living save George and Elizabeth. John Moyer was not yet eleven years of age when he came to this county with his parents and his schooling was completed in the somewhat primitive school which then served the community in which the family had settled, for in the days before the Civil war that part of Wayne township there in the neighborhood of the headwaters of the Auglaize was still little more than a "backwoods" settlement. He grew up on the farm, helpful in the labors of developing and improving the same, and after his marriage began farming on his own account, buying a tract in section 5 of Wayne township, where he established his home and has ever since resided. Mr. Moyer has been a successful farmer and has increased his holdings there until now he owns a fine farm of 306 acres and has a well equipped farm plant. He and his family are Republicans. John Moyer married Christina Kauffman, also a member of one of the pioneer families of Wayne

JOHN MOYER

township, and to this union have been born twelve children, five of whom are living, Jennie, Clement, William, Fred and Thomas, the others having died in infancy. Three of these are married. Jennie Moyer married Clem Ohler, now living at Lima, and has two children, Edward and John. Clement Moyer married Olive Harrod, daughter of Benton Harrod, and Fred Moyer married Delia Cook and has two children, Retha and Bernona. Despite the fact that Mr. Moyer is nearing his eightieth year he continues to maintain an active supervisory interest in his farming operations and also retains a hearty interest in the general affairs of the community of which he has been a part since the days of his boyhood back in what may be regarded as the pioneer days in this region, for when he came here the greater part of the land hereabout was still uncleared, and he has many interesting tales to tell of the "days of old."

ISAAC N. ZERKEL, who died at his home in Logan township about three years ago, and whose widow is still living at her pleasant farm home there, was a native "Buckeye" and had lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since he was six years of age, he having come to this county with his parents in the year in which Auglaize county was organized as a separate civic entity. Mr. Zerkel was born on a farm in Champaign county, Ohio, March 25, 1842, and was a son of Louis and Elizabeth (Neese) Zerkel, who later became established as among the pioneers of Logan township, this county. Louis Zerkel was a Virginian by birth, who after his marriage established his home on a farm in Champaign county, Ohio, where he lived until 1848, in which year he moved with his family up into Auglaize county, which was organized in that year, and settled on a woodland tract of 120 acres which he entered from the Government in section 24 of Logan township, about two miles east of the river, where he made his home and where he spent the remainder of his life, clearing and improving the place. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, four of whom, Abraham, Lafayette, Annias and Sarah, are still living. As stated above, Isaac N. Zerkel was six years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1848, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the northeastern corner of Logan township, receiving his schooling in the little old school house of district No. 1 at the section cross roads about a half mile west of the Zerkel home. From the days of his boyhood he was devoted to the affairs of the farm and after his marriage established his home on a part of the home place, where he lived until 1898, when he sold the piece of land he had inherited from his father and bought the eighty-acre place where he spent the remainder of his life, engaged in farming, a substantial citizen of that community, his death occurring there on June 2, 1920, he then being seventy-eight years of age. It was on December 29, 1870,

that Isaac N. Zerkel was united in marriage to Mary Ann Wilson, who was born on a farm just east of Cridersville, in Duchouquet township, daughter of John and Caroline (Delong) Wilson, pioneers of that neighborhood, and to this union six children were born, all of whom are living save two (Harley and Hazel), the others being John, Marcella, Leslie and Fleda, who are married. John Zerkel, who married Ollie Whetstone, is now living in Oklahoma. Marcella Zerkel married J. W. Bowersock, of Logan township, and has three children, Mabel, Riva and Mary. Mabel Bowersock married Robert Sharp, and Riva Bowersock married Martin Place. Leslie Zerkel married Sylvia Devore and has six children, Gladys, Alden, Marcella, Irvin, Walter and Betty M., and Fleda Zerkel married Charles Hines and has four children, Harley, Edna, Mabel and Earl. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Zerkel has continued to make her home on the farm, where she is very comfortably situated, rural mail route No. 7 out of Wapakoneta. She is a member of the Christian church, as was her husband. In his political views Mr. Zerkel was a Democrat.

ROY HAWKEY, recorder of Auglaize county and formerly and for years engaged in the real estate business at St. Marys, where he makes his home, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Hawkey was born at St. Marys on November 20, 1879, and is a son of Lloyd and Elizabeth (Brewer) Hawkey, the latter of whom also was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families of Noble township. Lloyd Hawkey was born in the neighboring county of Shelby, a member of one of the old families there, and was trained to the vocation of brickmason. During the days of his young manhood he located at Wapakoneta, where he married and where he became engaged as a building contractor, with particular reference to brick construction. He later moved to a farm just north of St. Marys, where he followed farming in a small way and at the same time continued his operations as a contractor, until his retirement and removal to St. Marys, where he spent the remainder of his life. Roy Hawkey received his schooling in the excellent schools of St. Marys and upon leaving the high school became employed in the shoe store of H. Netsorg, where he remained for one year, at the end of which time he transferred his connection to the R. H. Armstrong store, also at St. Marys, where he remained for twelve years, during the long period of his clerkship there acquiring a very wide acquaintance thereabout. With a proper view to the capitalization of this acquaintance Mr. Hawkey then became engaged in the real estate business, with offices at St. Marys, and for thirteen years was thus engaged or until his appointment in February, 1922, to the office of county recorder to fill the unexpired term of Andrew H. Lampert, who had resigned that office to accept the appointment as

treasurer of the county to fill the unexpired term of George H. Katterheinrich, deceased. Mr. Hawkey entered upon the duties of the recorder's office on March 1, 1922, and is thus serving in that important public capacity, with Stanley Brandewie as deputy recorder. In the election of 1922 he was elected to succeed himself in that office. During the long period of his connection with the real estate business Mr. Hawkey made a specialty of clerking at farm sales and there are few men in this county who have a wider acquaintance than he. He is an ardent Republican and has long been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in the western part of the county. In his fraternal affiliations he is connected with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at St. Marys and with the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. Mr. Hawkey has been twice married. His first wife, who was Bertha Wiemeyer, daughter of Fred Wiemeyer, died in 1919, leaving one child, a daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born in 1906. On April 11, 1921, Mr. Hawkey married Julia Wagner, daughter of W. O. Wagner, and to this union one child has been born, a son, William Lloyd, born on June 15, 1922.

JAMES WILLIAM FINLEY, one of the trustees of Clay township, former assessor of that township and one of its best known farmers and landowners, proprietor of the old Finley farm in the eastern part of the township, was born on that farm there along the pike in the west half of section 13 and has lived there all his life. Mr. Finley was born on March 19, 1878, and is a son of John M. and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Finley, who were in their generation among the best known residents of that neighborhood. The late John M. Finley was a native of Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania. When but a boy he came to Ohio with his parents, the family settling in Union county. As a young man he came to Auglaize county and settled in Clay township. After his marriage he established his home in that township and became the owner of an excellent farm of 120 acres, as is set out elsewhere in this work. It was on that farm that James William Finley grew to manhood, carefully trained in the ways of farming, he and his elder brother, A. M. Finley, being valuable aids to their father in the labors of developing and improving the place. When he attained his majority his father gave him a partnership interest in the products of the farm and after his marriage at the age of twenty-four this arrangement was continued for another year, at the end of which time he rented the farm outright, on a cash rental basis, and continued to carry on his operations there on that basis for eleven years, or until his father's death, when he bought the interests of the other heirs in the farm and has since been proprietor, in the meantime having created there a fine, up-to-date farm plant. This farm was in the path of the destructive cyclone which swept over this region in the summer of 1918 and all the build-

PAUL ZINK, a veteran of the Civil war and one of the best known octogenarians in Auglaize county, formerly and for many years engaged in the blacksmith business at Wapakoneta and now living retired in that city, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county, where he was born, his parents having settled here ten years before the time of the formal erection of Auglaize county. Mr. Zink was born on a woodland farm in Duchouquet townings on the farm were razed with the exception of the dwelling house, garage and granary. Mr. Finley immediately set about the erection of a new set of buildings and now has a bigger and better plant than before, including a farm tractor and an individual electric lighting system. In addition to his general farming he feeds out about seventy-five hogs a year and is doing well. Mr. Finley is an ardent Republican and has long taken an active interest in local civic affairs, at present serving as a member of the board of trustees for Clay township. He also formerly and for two years served as township assessor. He is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at St. Johns. It was on December 24, 1902, that James William Finley was united in marriage to Margaret Waltz, who also was born in Clay township, daughter of Jefferson and Mary (Barhart) Waltz, both of whom were born in Ohio, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Neva, born on December 23, 1904; Franklin, December 2, 1909, and Irene, December 2, 1913. The Finleys have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Johns and have ever taken a helpful and hospitable part in the general social activities of the community in which they live.

ship, which then was included within the confines of Allen county, February 2, 1843, and is a son of Joseph and Susanna Zink, natives of the grand duchy of Baden, Germany, who were married in that country and who about a year following their marriage, in 1832, came to America and located at Pittsburgh, Pa., where they made their home for several years and where two children were born to them. They then came to Ohio and made their home in Piqua until 1838, in which year they moved up here and settled on a tract of forty acres which Joseph Zink had entered from the Government in Duchouquet township. On April 21, 1849, Joseph Zink met his death by a log falling on him while assisting in the raising of a barn, leaving his widow with nine children, the eldest of whom was sixteen years of age and the youngest but eighteen months. The widow Zink kept the family together, and with the aid of her sons continued the work of developing the pioneer farm. When the Civil war came on three of these sons became soldiers in the Union army, the subject of this sketch and his brothers, Joseph and Mathias. Mrs. Susanna Zink died on April 12, 1868. Reared on the home farm in Duchouquet township, Paul Zink received his schooling in the neigh-

borhood school and when seventeen years of age entered upon an apprenticeship to the blacksmith trade in the shop of Godfrey Weber at Wapakoneta, where he was working when the Civil war broke out. Though but eighteen years of age, he lost little time in proffering his services in behalf of the cause of the Union, and on October 14, 1861, was accepted as a private in Company C of the 58th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and reported for duty at Camp Denison, whence he presently was sent to the front, and it was not long until he was in the thick of some pretty strenuous service. At the battle of Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi, December 29, 1862, Mr. Zink was wounded and was sent back of the lines, in due time finding relief in the Government hospital at Evansville, Ind. Upon recovery he rejoined his regiment and continued in service until his honorable discharge on January 16, 1865. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Zink returned home and resumed his work in the blacksmith shop. Following his marriage, in the fall of 1867, he became engaged in business on his own account, opening a blacksmith shop at 5 East Mechanic street, and there continued active in business until in January, 1918, when a stroke of paralysis compelled his retirement, and he has since been living retired, the business now being carried on by one of his sons, John H. Zink, who has been connected with the business since 1894. It was on October 8, 1867, that Paul Zink was united in marriage to Genevieve Braun, and it was thus that the golden wedding anniversary of this venerable couple was celebrated more than five years ago. Mrs. Zink was born at New Riegel, in Seneca county, Ohio, and is a daughter of Robert and Christina (Fischer) Braun, natives of the grand duchy of Baden, the former born on March 25, 1800, and the latter May 25, 1813, who had come to this country in their youth and who were married in Columbiana county, this state, July 17, 1834. Following their marriage Robert Braun and his wife made their home at New Riegel until in 1857, when they came with their family to this county and settled on a farm two miles south of Wapakoneta, where they spent the remainder of their lives, Mrs. Braun dying on July 23, 1872, and Mr. Braun on November 6, 1878. They were the parents of thirteen children and had besides an adopted son, an orphan, taken into their home when he was three years of age. Mrs. Christina Braun's parents, Ignatius and Helena (Lam) Fischer, were among the pioneers of the Freyburg neighborhood, in this county Both were natives of Baden, born at Waldulm, the former on February 4, 1784, and the latter on April 3, 1783. Ignatius Fischer died here on September 11, 1840, and his widow survived until April 20, 1850. It is narrated that when in September, 1840, Mrs. Christina Braun received word at her home in New Riegel that her father,

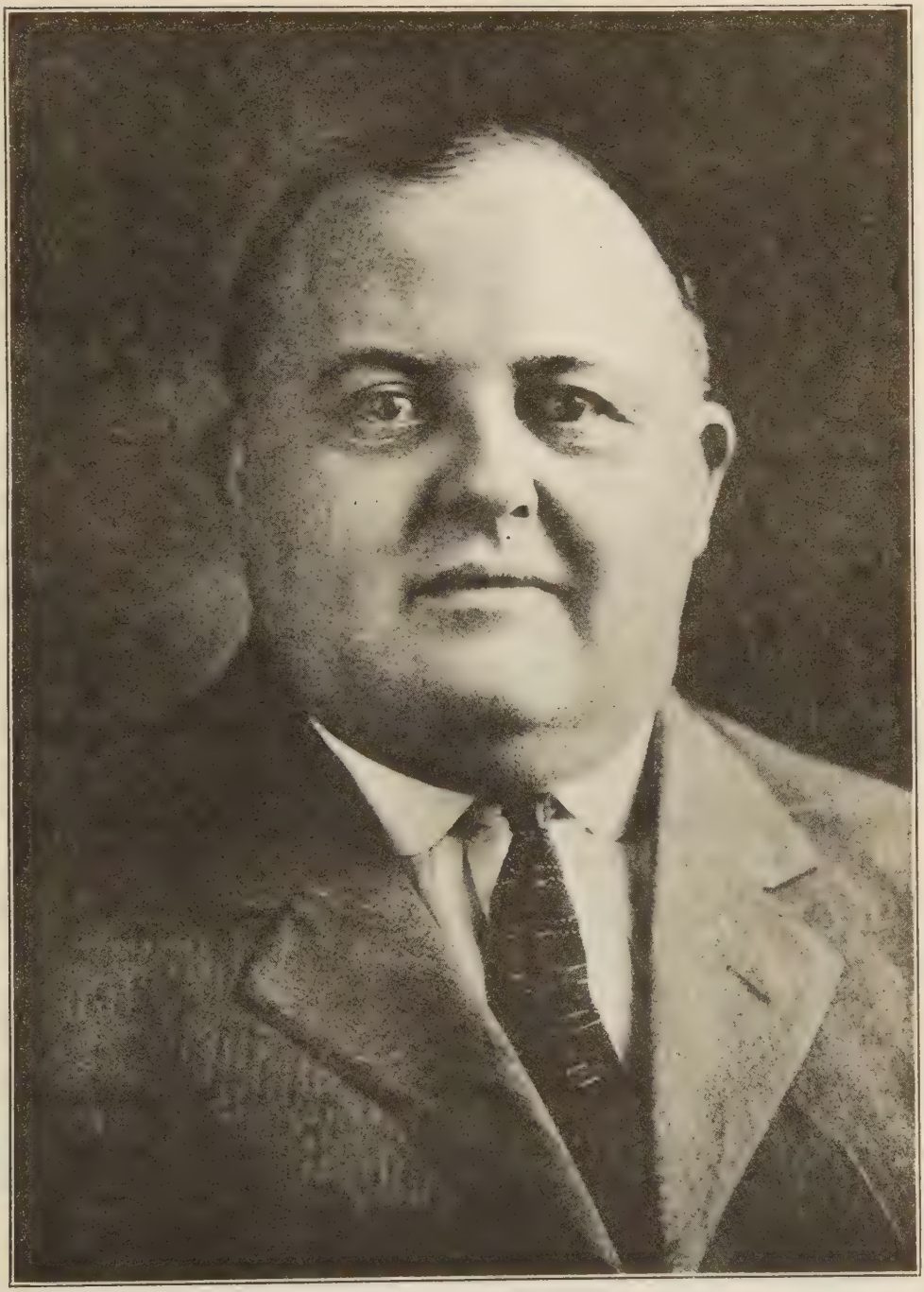
Ignatius Fischer, was dying at his home in New Freyburg, she started for his bedside carrying her seven-months-old daughter, Otilla, in her arms, and walked the entire distance, stopping but one night for sleep in a settler's cabin. At the end of the second day she reached her father's bedside, only to find him dead, and the first faltering steps of the infant daughter were taken around the pioneer's casket. To Paul and Genevieve (Braun) Zink have been born twelve children, all of whom are living save five, Joseph, John and Michael, who died in infancy, and Kate and Amelia E., the latter of whom married William Schneider, and died on May 31, 1917, leaving four children, Eleanor, Margaret, Pauline and Charles. Kate Zink married Michael Wahrer and died on June 26, 1919, leaving seven children, William, Rose, Albert, Paul, Elizabeth, Genevieve and Charles. The surviving children of this family are L. Josephine, Anna H., John H., Teresia M., Albert, Robert S. and Charles E., all of whom are married save John H. and Charles E., and Mr. and Mrs. Zink have thirty-seven grandchildren. L. Josephine Zink married Frank Manger and has eight children, Henry, Marion, Michael, Genevieve, Robert, Paul, George and Rita. Anna H. Zink married Martin Duell and has six children, John, Henry, Edward, Roland, Francis and George. Teresia Zink married Fred Weimert and has eight children, Vernon, Marjorie, Roland, Harold, Richard, Cecelia, Mary and Pauline. Albert Zink married Carrie Peck and has one child, a daughter, Margaret, and Robert S. Zink married Laverne Goff and has three children, Leroy, Paul and Mae. Charles E. Zink, the youngest son, is a veteran of the World war with an overseas record. He was inducted into service on September 18, 1917, and at Camp Sherman was assigned to Company I of the 329th Infantry. In January, 1918, he volunteered for immediate overseas service, and on February 15 was transferred to Camp Merritt, whence twelve days later he sailed with the second detachment of replacement troops from Camp Sherman, landing at Brest, France, on March 10. Until April 9 this detachment was stationed at Angiers, where he was assigned to Company A of the 117th Engineers, 42d Division, and sent to the front lines, where he was on duty for seven months, and during which time he participated in no fewer than six major engagements, these including the Champagne-Marne, the Aisne-Marne, St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne, Andennes and the defensive sector. Following the armistice he went on into Germany with the Army of Occupation and continued in foreign service until his return to the United States on April 28, 1919. He received his final discharge at Camp Sherman on the following May 17, and upon his return to Wapakoneta resumed his vocation as a tailor, a vocation which he had followed for fourteen years prior to his entrance into the army.

Charles E. Zink is an active member of the local post of the American Legion and in 1922 was post adjutant. He is a member of the board of trustees of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, and is also affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the local lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose, and the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

H. B. THIEMAN, better known among his hosts of friends throughout this section of the state as "Ben" Thieman, former postmaster at Minster, and for years one of the most influential citizens of that town, now engaged in the insurance business there, was born at Minster and has been active in affairs there for years. Mr. Thieman is a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Gossman) Thieman, both of whom also were born in this county, members of pioneer families here. The subject of this sketch has a brother, John Thieman. The late Henry Thieman, who for many years was one of Minster's best known citizens, and widely known in the days of the old canal trade, early became engaged in the cooperage business at Minster, he and Frank Herkenhoff setting up there a plant they had brought up from Troy and making a specialty of pork barrels, this pioneer plant having been the nucleus around which eventually developed the extensive plant of the Minster Cooperage Company. During the Civil war period Mr. Thieman's wife (Elizabeth Gossman) was engaged as a dressmaker at Cairo, Ill., and while there was for a time dressmaker for Mrs. Gen. U. S. Grant. During her widowhood she for eighteen years was the proprietress of a hotel at Minster, one of the most popular hotels in this part of the state in its day, then known as the Schmieder House, named after Dr. J. P. Schmieder. Reared at Minster, Ben Thieman supplemented the schooling received in the local schools there by a course in the normal school at Ada, and shortly after this began to take part in the operation of his mother's hotel at Minster. For eighteen years Mr. Thieman was thus engaged, and then, under Governor Harmon's administration, he accepted the appointment as assistant state fire marshal, a position he occupied for five and a half years, or until he resigned to accept the commission as postmaster at Minster. Mr. Thieman continued to serve as postmaster at Minster for several years, or until his resignation by reason of ill health, and for some little time thereafter he necessarily remained inactive while recuperating. He then took up his present line, life insurance. He assisted in the organization of the Columbus Mutual Life Insurance Company, and has ever since been connected with this institution, one of the best known insurance men in this section. So valuable have Mr. Thieman's services in behalf of this company proved that in 1920 he was elected to a post on the board of directors of that company. Mr. Thieman

is a Democrat. When twenty-one years of age he was elected to the office of clerk of Jackson township, and for two terms he continued to serve in that capacity. That was back in the middle '90s, and ever since then he has been one of the influential factors in local civic affairs, his counsel and judgment being sought on all occasions of local moment in town and township affairs. He was one of the organizers of the Superior Cigar Box Company and is a member of the board of directors of that company. Mr. Thieman attends the Catholic church, is an active member of the Minster Commercial Club, and is affiliated with the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. He has been an Elk for many years, his original membership (1901) having been with the lodge of that order at Sidney, before the Wapakoneta lodge was organized.

FLORIAN W. SMITH, one of the best known figures in insurance circles in this county, district agent for the State Automobile Insurance Company of Indianapolis, formerly and for years a teacher in the schools of this county, former deputy sheriff, former mayor of Uniopolis and for some years past supervisor of the Ohio State Bottlers Association, with office and residence at Wapakoneta, where he has made his home for almost twenty years past, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here and has lived in this county all his life with the exception of a period twenty years or more ago when he was connected with the Department of the Interior at Washington, D. C. Mr. Smith was born in the village of Uniopolis on July 14, 1876, and is a son of August and Clara (Tabler) Smith, both of whom also were natives of Ohio, the latter born in Fairfield county, a daughter of William F. and Charlotte (Purcell) Tabler, who were among the pioneers of that county. The late August Smith, former sheriff of Auglaize county, who died at Wapakoneta on January 16, 1923, was born in Union township, this county, August 14, 1849, the year following the formal erection of Auglaize county, and was a son of Felician and Julia Smith (Schmidt), both of whom were of European birth, the latter an Alsatian and the former a native of the grand duchy of Baden. For some time after his arrival in this country Felician Schmidt (whose family name in the second generation was Anglicized to its present form, Smith) was located at Canton, in Stark county, this state, but when the lands over in this part of the state were beginning generally to be settled he came over here and got possession of a tract of land in the southwest quarter of section 17 of Union township, in this county, just at the north edge of the Uniopolis town site, and there established his home, becoming one of the useful and influential pioneers of that neighborhood. It was on that pioneer farm that August Schmidt (Smith) was born and reared. He married when twenty-five years of age and continued



FLORIAN W. SMITH

farming on the home place, remaining there until his election to the office of sheriff of Auglaize county, as the nominee of the Democratic party, in 1904, since which time he had made his home at the county seat, his last days having been spent in the home of his son, Florian. By re-election, August Smith served for two terms as sheriff (1905-9) and thus became one of the best known men in the county. Prior to his election to the shrievalty he had served for four years (1888-92) as clerk of Union township and had in other ways taken his part in public service. It was in 1875 that August Smith was united in marriage to Clara Tabler. To this union were born three children, of whom the subject of this sketch alone now survives, the other two, Jeannette and Charles A., having died in childhood. The mother of these children died in August, 1903. Florian W. Smith was reared on the home farm at the edge of the village of Uniopolis and was graduated from the high school there in 1893. He then took a course in the normal school of Lima College, preparatory to taking up the profession of teaching and for ten years thereafter was engaged as a teacher in the schools of this county. During the years 1895-97 Mr. Smith was superintendent of the Buckland schools. For six years thereafter he devoted his services to rural school work and in 1903-4 was superintendent of the Uniopolis schools. Meanwhile, during the vacation period in 1900 he served as a clerk in the office of the Interior Department at Washington, gaining there a bit of practical experience that has proved valuable to him in more than one relation of life since then. When his father entered upon his term of service as sheriff of the county, the family moved to Wapakoneta and Florian W. Smith was made deputy sheriff, a public service which he rendered for four years, at the end of which time he became a salesman and continued in the latter vocation until 1916, when he was appointed supervisor of the Ohio State Bottlers Association, having charge of that association's legislative program and its publicity agencies, a position which he still occupies and in the exercise of the functions of which he has done much to advance the interests of the association, which during Mr. Smith's incumbency has increased its membership 400 per cent. In 1922 Mr. Smith received the appointment as district manager for the State Automobile Insurance Company of Indianapolis, with direction over agencies in Auglaize and Mercer counties, and is now so occupied. For years Mr. Smith has been looked upon as one of the leaders of the Democratic party in Auglaize county and in the campaign of 1922 was made the nominee of the party for representative in the Legislature from this district. In addition to his service as deputy sheriff, above referred to, Mr. Smith had rendered prior public service as mayor of Uniopolis, to which office he had been elected in 1897, when but twenty-one years of age, and in 1912 he was elected councilman-at-

large for the city of Wapakoneta and served for one term in that capacity. He and his family are members of the First Lutheran church at Wapakoneta and he also is affiliated with the Knights of Pythias, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose, the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the United Commercial Travelers. On July 7, 1903, Florian W. Smith was united in marriage to Edith G. Shaw, daughter of Isaiah and Mary (Lump) Shaw, of Duchouquet township and both members of old families in this county, and to this union six children have been born, one of whom died in infancy, the others being J. Carl, Juanita K., Cullen C., who died on January 6, 1923, Eileen A. and William F. The Smiths have a very pleasant home at 109 East Mechanic street.

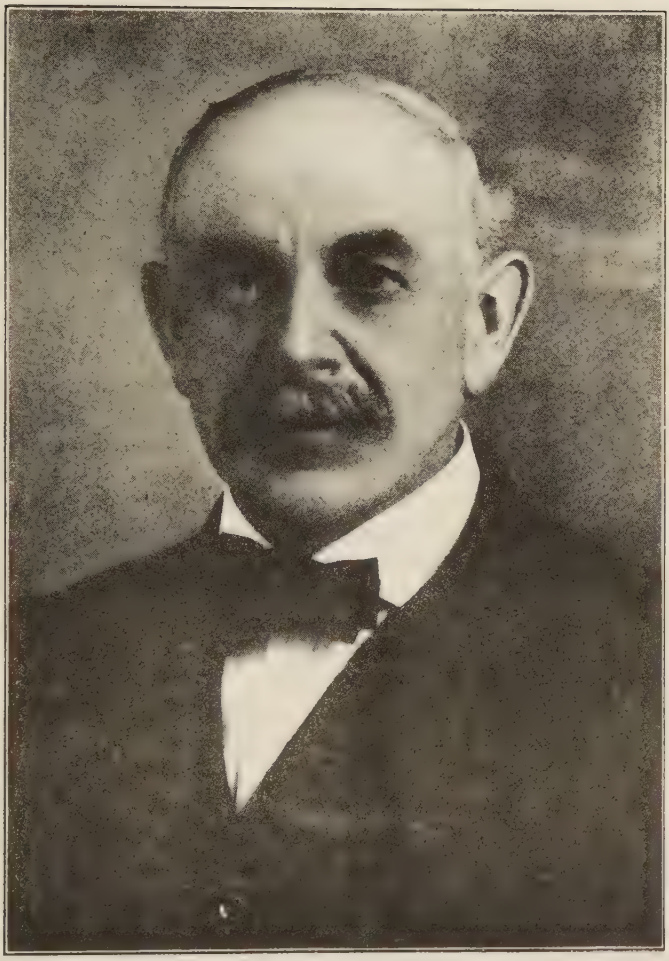
LEWIS J. LINK, one of the well-known farmers and landowners of Moulton township, proprietor of a well-kept place about three miles west of Wapakoneta, was born on a farm in Pusheta township on May 21, 1866, and is a son of George and Elizabeth Link, both of German birth, the former born in Hesse and the latter in Wurtemburg. The late George Link, who in his day was one of the considerable landowners in Moulton township, came to this country in the days of his young manhood and settled in Auglaize county, where, after his marriage, he established his home in Pusheta township, where he continued farming until about 1867, when he moved up into Moulton township and bought an "eighty," the place on which his son, Lewis, is now living, in the southeast quarter of section 27, and there settled down to farming, remaining there until his retirement from the farm, in 1892, and removal to Wapakoneta, where his last days were spent. He was a good farmer and had increased his land holdings until he became the owner of 320 acres of land and was accounted one of the substantial citizens of that part of the county. George Link was twice married. By his wife, Elizabeth, he was the father of three children, all of whom are living, those besides the subject of this sketch being Mrs. Sarah Dressler, of Dayton, Ohio, and Miss Celia Link, of Wapakoneta. By his first marriage he was the father of five children, two of whom, Florence and George, are deceased, the others being John and Fred Link and Mrs. Mary Engelhaupt, the latter of Pusheta township. Lewis J. Link was but a babe when his parents moved from Pusheta township to Moulton township, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the latter township, receiving his schooling in the neighborhood district school. From the days of his boyhood he was attentive to the affairs of the farm, thus early being trained in the ways of practical farming, and continued operations in association with his father until his marriage at the age of twenty-five, when he assumed direction of the home eighty, his father retiring from

the farm at that time, and after his father's death came into possession of this place by inheritance. This farm was caught in the path of the cyclone of 1920 and the farm buildings all practically destroyed, this disaster necessitating a reconstruction of the place. Mr. Link carried out his reconstruction plans along modern lines and thus now has one of the best appearing farm plants in that neighborhood. In addition to his general farming, Mr. Link gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding out about 100 hogs a year, and is doing well. Mr. Link is a Democrat and for eight years served as a member of the school board in his home township. He is a member of St. Paul's Evangelical church at Wapakoneta. On December 20, 1892, Lewis J. Link was united in marriage to Anna Fritz, who was born at Wapakoneta, March 14, 1869, daughter of David and Mary (Presar) Fritz, and who died on October 11, 1917, and is buried in Greenlawn cemetery. To that union were born three children, two of whom, Alvina and Earl, are living, the latter now a student in the Wapakoneta high school. Alvina Link married Emil George, now a part owner of the Brown Theater at Wapakoneta, and has one child, a daughter, Marianna, born on March 27, 1919. The Link home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 7 out of Wapakoneta.

FENNER N. HORN, one of Logan township's best known farmers and landowners and proprietor of a well-kept farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Marys, is a "Buckeye" by birth and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Horn was born at Jefferson, the county seat of Ashtabula county, Ohio, May 13, 1856, and is a son of Joseph and Caroline (McMaster) Horn, the latter of whom also was born in Ohio, a member of one of the pioneer families of this state. The late Joseph Horn, who for twenty-five years was a resident of Auglaize county, was of European birth, born in the city of Baden-Baden, in the grand duchy of Baden, and was seven years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family locating in New York. His father died there not long afterward, and he then came to Ohio, where he grew up in the household of his maternal grandfather. Some years after his marriage he became engaged in farming in Huron county, and there made his home until 1867, when he came to Auglaize county with his family and bought a farm of approximately sixty acres in the southwest quarter of section 6 of Logan township, on the Salem township line, about a half mile east of the canal, and there established his home. On that place Joseph Horn spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1892. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Alta, and three

brothers, Frank, Charles and William Horn. The deceased children of this family were Alice, Beatrice and Beulah, and two who died in infancy. Fenner N. Horn was eleven years of age when he came to this county with his parents, in 1867, and he grew to manhood on the home farm in the southwestern part of Logan township. He completed his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood and remained with his father on the farm until he had attained his majority, when he leased a twenty-acre tract of timber land and started in to clear the same. He married at the age of twenty-five, and then bought a small farm of sixteen acres in Moulton township, where he made his home for fifteen years, at the end of which time he rented a farm in Noble township, and on that place carried on so successfully that three years later he was able to buy the place of 100 acres on which he is now living, in Logan township, and on this latter place has since then made his home, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Since taking possession of this farm Mr. Horn has made extensive improvements on the place and now has a well-equipped farm plant. It was in September, 1881, that Fenner N. Horn was united in marriage to Irene Montague, who was born in this county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and to this union have been born three children, Chloe, Everett and Harry, the latter of whom died when fourteen years of age. Chloe Horn married Walter Holsapple, and Everett Horn married Leona Hill. Mr. and Mrs. Horn are members of the Walnut Grove Methodist Episcopal church and are Republicans.

W. NEWTON DINGLEDINE, veteran grain dealer of Buckland, former mayor of that town, for many years clerk of Logan township, now living retired at his pleasant home in Buckland, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since he was seven years of age, a period of sixty-five years, and is thus one of the best known men in the county. Mr. Dingledine was born in Champaign county, Ohio, November 3, 1850, and is a son of John and Clara (Caldwell) Dingledine, who became residents of this county some years after that date and whose last days were spent here. John Dingledine was a native of the Old Dominion, born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, and was a son of Philip and Mary (Barrington) Dingledine, both of whom also were born in Virginia, members of Colonial families, and whose last days were spent in Champaign county, this state. Philip Dingledine was a farmer and landowner and proprietor of a saw mill in Champaign county. John Dingledine grew to manhood in his native state and was there married. When thirty-one years of age he came to Ohio and located in Champaign county, where he remained until in October, 1857, when he came to Auglaize county with his family and settled on a tract of 176 acres he had bought



W. NEWTON DINGLEDINE

west of the Auglaize river in Logan township, this tract including all of the northeast quarter of section 34 of that township, two miles north of where Buckland came into being when the railroad presently came along. He established his home on that tract there in the woods and entered upon the task of clearing the same and making a farm out of it, but these labors were interrupted by his death less than six years thereafter, his death occurring in February, 1863. His wife died in that same year and three children thus were doubly orphaned. Two other children of this family had died previously. Of the surviving children but two now are living, the subject of this sketch and his brother, John Dingledine. The deceased children of this family were Samuel, Mary and Charles. It will be noted by a comparison of dates above that W. Newton Dingledine was but seven years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1857 and he was thirteen when he was bereaved by death of his parents. He was taken into the household of John Gochenour, one of the leading farmers of that neighborhood, and there grew to manhood, completing his schooling in the local schools. Upon the attainment of his majority Mr. Dingledine came into his inheritance, his share of his father's estate, and he became a practical farmer, looking after the interests of his farm—a part of the old home place north of Buckland—and the grain interests he meanwhile was developing, until 1881, when he left the farm and moved to Buckland, where he built a house and where he since has been making his home. It was in 1882 that Mr. Dingledine became engaged in the grain business at Buckland and became proprietor of the grain elevator there. That was four or five years after the completion of the railroad and it soon became apparent that Buckland was a good shipping point. For more than twenty-five years Mr. Dingledine remained in the grain business at Buckland and then, in 1909, he sold his elevator there and bought the grain elevator at Glynwood, about midway between Buckland and St. Marys and another excellent shipping point in that part of the county, and continued in business at that point until his retirement in 1921. Mr. Dingledine is a deacon in the Christian church at Buckland. He is a Democrat and has been serving as clerk of Logan township with the exception of an interruption of service during several terms from 1886 to 1893 ever since the year 1876, which probably constitutes the record for length of individual public service in this county. During the period of interruption in his service as township clerk, Mr. Dingledine was serving as township treasurer, so that his record may be regarded as one of continuous public service for more than forty-five years. He also has rendered service as mayor of Buckland and for six years was treasurer of the town, and for some time also was a member of the township board. On

December 10, 1871, W. N. Dingledine was united in marriage to Mary J. Neese, daughter of Shen and Mary (May) Neese, and to this union was born one child, a daughter, Clara A., who married M. K. Clover, of St. Marys, and has four children, Cade, Mary, Jesse and June. Mary Clover married Willis Kishler and has one child, a son, Marvin.

JOHN W. BRACKNEY, a member of the board of county commissioners for Auglaize county, a former trustee of Clay township and in other ways for years active in the public affairs of this county, one of the best known men in the county, was until lately the proprietor of a well improved farm, the old Ritchey farm in Clay township, which Mr. Brackney recently sold and is now making his home in Wapakoneta. He and his family are very comfortably situated there, living in the George B. Bice home on East Mechanic street, which he bought. Mr. Brackney was born on a farm along the highway less than two miles east of St. Johns, in Clay township, November 11, 1870, and is a son of Reuben and Samantha J. (Lusk) Brackney, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that neighborhood, the Brackneys and the Lusks having been among the early settlers of that section, back in the '30s, in the days just following the departure of the Indians from this region and when that part of what now is Auglaize county was included within the confines of Allen County. Reared on that farm, John W. Brackney received his early schooling in the Brackney school (district No. 6), there at the center cross roads in section 4, nearby the lower line of the Brackney farm, and supplemented this by a course in the St. Johns schools, after which he began teaching in the schools of this county and was thus engaged during the winters for five years, his service in this connection having been rendered in districts 1, 3, 5 and 6 of Clay township. In the meantime, while in his twenty-first year, Mr. Brackney married and began farming on his own account, for the first year of this individual endeavor renting land from his father. He then bought a "forty" down on the Geyer pike in that township and for about ten years made his home on this latter place, meantime increasing his holdings there to eighty acres. During this ten years of cultivation of that place Mr. Brackney got the farm in fine shape and then sold it and in 1902 bought his recent place of 120 acres down near the old Logan Indian reservation line and just below the old Wapakoneta Indian reservation line, the place then known as the P. E. Ritchie farm, and until lately made his home there. Upon taking possession of that farm Mr. Brackney entered upon a course of improvement and development which gave him one of the best improved farms in that section of the county as well as one of the best equipped farm plants, this including an entire new set of buildings,

a modern dwelling house equipped with individual lighting and running water systems, the latter an air-pressure system, and all the conveniences which modern genius has devised to better the old conditions of farm life. In addition to his general farming Mr. Brackney long gave considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding out about one hundred hogs a year, and did well in his operations, long being recognized as one of the real progressive farmers of the county. Mr. Brackney is an ardent Republican, for years one of the leaders of that party in this county, and in the notable election of 1922 was elected by a majority of 599 to represent his district on the board of county commissioners for the second time. During the period of Mr. Brackney's useful service on the board of county commissioners he has impressed his personality definitely on affairs about the court house and has become recognized as a definite and forward-looking force in the public life of this county. Prior to his entrance upon his duties as county commissioner in 1921 Mr. Brackney had rendered valuable local public service in his home township, having served for two terms as a township trustee, two years as township clerk and four years as township assessor, and also has been for years a member of the local school board, for some time during this latter service acting as president of the board. He and his wife are members of the Mt. Tabor Methodist Episcopal church and take an interested part in the affairs of that progressive congregation. It was on September 10, 1891, that John W. Brackney was united in marriage to Louisa Gross, also a member of one of the old families of Clay township, and to this union have been born seven children, four of whom, Turah, Reuben B., Tillie, and Homer, are living, the deceased children of this family having been one who died in infancy, Wilbur L., born on September 12, 1901, who died on May 3, 1903, and Hazel, born on March 24, 1907, who died on April 18, 1920. Turah Brackney, born on July 21, 1892, married Herman Reinhart, now living at Santa Fe, in this county, and has seven children, Kenneth, Mary, Mabel, Carl, Mildred, Paul and Maxine. Reuben B. Brackney, born on September 17, 1893, and who is farming in Clay township, married Carrie V. Metz and has two children, Helen R. and Berneda. Tillie Brackney, born on August 30, 1897, married Ira Rhoades, a farmer of Logan county, and is now living in Stokes township, that county. Homer Brackney, born on August 25, 1909, is still in school. Mrs. Louisa Brackney was born in Clay township on December 15, 1870, and is a daughter of Jacob and Matilda (Schuler) Gross, the latter of whom was born in Jackson township in the neighboring county of Shelby. Jacob Gross was born in Clay township, Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families of that township, and after his marriage settled on a farm in Clay township, in the

upper half of section 27 of that township, and became the proprietor of a fine farm of 120 acres there. To him and his wife were born five children, but two of whom are now living, Mrs. Brackney and her sister, Mrs. Hannah Mollenauer, of Marion county, this state.

CALVIN M. GROVER, a former trustee of Union township and a well known and substantial farmer and landowner of that township, proprietor of "Groveland Stock Farm" about two miles northeast of Uniopolis and former president of the Uniopolis Grain Company, is a native of the old Keystone state but has been a resident of Auglaize county for nearly a quarter of a century and thus feels himself to be "perfectly at home" here. Mr. Grover was born on a farm in Columbia county, Pennsylvania, February 8, 1868, and is a son of Stephen and Celinda (Smith) Grover, both of whom also were natives of Pennsylvania. Stephen Grover was born in Columbia county and there spent all his life, his death occurring when his son Calvin was a small boy. Calvin M. Grover grew to manhood in his native state and from boyhood was trained to the ways of the farm. In the late '90s he came to Ohio and settled in Auglaize county, buying a tract of thirty acres, a part of the old Peter Crouse farm northeast of Uniopolis and after his marriage shortly after established his home there, his wife adding to his holdings there a tract of forty acres, a part of the Crouse farm. On this farm of seventy acres Mr. Grover carried on his operations so profitably that he presently was able to buy more land and he has increased his holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of 200 acres and has an admirable farm plant, he and his family being very comfortably situated. On "Groveland Stock Farm" Mr. Grover feeds out from 100 to 150 head of hogs and a couple of car loads of cattle annually and is doing well. It was in 1899 that Calvin M. Grover was united in marriage to Clarissa Crouse, who was born in Union township, daughter of Peter and Matilda (Chrest) Crouse, and to this union three children have been born, Edward, Howard (deceased) and one who died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Grover are members of the Uniopolis Methodist Protestant church and take a proper part in the affairs of that congregation. They are Democrats and Mr. Grover has long taken an active part in local civic affairs, having served for one term as one of the trustees of Union township. He took an active part in the organization of the Uniopolis Grain Company, was elected first president of that organization and for nearly five years served in that capacity. Mr. Grover is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at St. Johns. For four years he served as treasurer of the Fairmount Cemetery Association. The Grovers have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis. Mrs. Grover's parents, Peter Crouse and wife, were natives of Pennsylvania and were reared in their native

CALVIN M. GROVER AND FAMILY.

state, where they were married. In 1851 they came to Auglaize county and settled in Union township, Peter Crouse buying there a tract of land (now included in "Groveland Stock Farm") on which he spent the remainder of his life engaged in farming. He and his wife were the parents of eight children, of whom four now are living, Mrs. Grover having a sister, Sarah, and two brothers, John and Gabriel S. Crouse.

ADAM HELMLINGER, one of the veteran farmers of Clay township and a substantial landowner of that township, now living practically retired on his well kept place on rural mail route No. 2 out of St. Johns, was born on the farm on which he is now living, a member of one of the pioneer families of that neighborhood, and has lived there all his life, a period of seventy years, and has thus seen that region develop from its original woodland state. Mr. Helmlinger was born on August 7, 1852, and is a son of Ludwig and Christina (Munch) Helmlinger, Europeans, natives of Alsace-Lorraine, who came to America in 1834, following their marriage, the sailing vessel on which they came being nine weeks in making the passage over. They landed at the port of New York and with little delay made their way out here into western Ohio and settled on an "eighty" which Ludwig Helmlinger entered from the Government in section 20 of Clay township, which then was a part of Allen county, where they established their home. The first home there on their woodland tract was a log cabin, but as they got this place cleared and developed they presently had a more commodious and comfortable home and became well established pioneers of that region. Ludwig Helmlinger was a good farmer and as his affairs prospered he added to his land holdings until he became the owner of 420 acres in Clay township, where he and his wife spent their last days. They were the parents of nine children, three of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Knarr, and a brother, Louis Helmlinger. Reared on the farm on which he was born, Adam Helmlinger received his schooling in the little old log school house known as the Eheman school (district No. 7) and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the farm. He continued helpful in the labors of developing the home place until after his marriage, when he established his home on the "eighty" which he had received from his father, a part of the home place, and has since resided there, in the years that have intervened since then having created there an excellent farm plant. To this tract on which he started farming for himself he has added until now he has 399 acres in Clay township, which he rents out, having some time ago retired from the active labors of the farm. It was in 1883 that Adam Helmlinger was united in marriage to Caroline Regula, who was born and reared in the neighboring county of Shelby, daughter

of Peter and Katie (Metz) Regula, and to this union three children have been born, Gus, Amelia and Luella, all of whom are married. Gus Helmlinger, who is farming a part of the home place, married Barbara Klopfenstein and has three children, Ethel N., Roger W. and Bernice L. Amelia Helmlinger married William Zorn, a Shelby county farmer, and has two children, Levera and Irene, and Luella Helmlinger married Louis Klopfenstein, a Clay township farmer, and has three children, Geraldine, Wilson and Nelson. The Helmlingers are active members of the Evangelical Lutheran church in section 20, long and familiarly known as the Helmlinger church.

JOHN H. HUT, a well known farmer of Pusheta township, living on rural mail route No. 8 out of Wapakoneta, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here the better part of his life. Mr. Hut was born in German township on May 2, 1857, and is a son of Theodore and Mary (Gressbrink) Hut, the latter of whom was born in Kentucky. Theodore Hut was a European by birth, born in the grand duchy of Luxemburg, and was but a lad when he came to this country with his parents, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and settling at Minster not long after the settlement there of the Stallo colony. Theodore Hut grew up there and became a shoemaker. After his marriage he settled on a farm in German township, but some years later moved to Toledo, where he became engaged at his trade. Late in life he returned to Minster, where his last days were spent. He and his wife were the parents of six children, two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Edward Hut, of Toledo. John H. Hut was but a child when his parents moved to Toledo and he was reared there, receiving his schooling in the schools of that city. As a young man he learned the trade of butcher, becoming thus employed when eighteen years of age, and for nearly twenty years followed that vocation, or until his marriage at the age of thirty-five, when he began farming, renting from his father-in-law, Joseph Baker, the farm of eighty acres on which he is now living in Pusheta township. Following the death of Mr. Baker, Mr. Hut's wife inherited that place and the home has since been maintained there, the family being very comfortably situated. Since coming into charge of this place Mr. Hut has made extensive improvements, these including a new set of buildings on the place, and he now has a well equipped farm plant. In addition to this farm he rents an adjoining "eighty" and thus is farming 160 acres. In connection with his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well, his sons being valuable aids to him in the operation of the farm. It was on May 27, 1892, that John H. Hut was united in marriage to Anna Baker and to this union ten children were born, eight of whom are living, and but one of whom (George) is married. George Hut married Agnes Sholl

and is farming for his father. The other children of this family are Alfred, Philip, John, Theodore, Gertrude, Bertha and Theresa. The mother of these children died on March 29, 1922. She was born at Crestline, Ohio, and was a daughter of Joseph and Theresa (Heueisen) Baker, who were the parents of five children, Mrs. Hut having had a sister, Mary, and three brothers, George, Joseph and John Baker. Mrs. Hut was but a child when her parents moved from Crestline and settled on a farm in Washington township, this county, and her schooling was completed at Botkins. Mr. Hut is a member of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Botkins and his children have been reared in the Catholic faith. He is a member of the local branch of the Knights of America (No. 937) at Botkins and in his political faith is a Democrat.

TIPTON G. EMERSON, a well known farmer and landowner of Clay township, proprietor in conjunction with his wife of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Johns, where he and his family are quite comfortably situated, was born in the village of St. Johns on September 28, 1870, and is a son of Dr. Thomas and Mary F. (Rogers) Emerson, both of whom were born in that same neighborhood, members of pioneer families there, and who were in their generation among the best known residents of that part of the county. Doctor Emerson was for years a practicing physician and druggist at St. Johns, his home being on the Union township side of the village. Of the five children born to him and his wife two are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mrs. Clyde Copeland, of Union township. Reared at St. Johns, Tipton G. Emerson received his schooling in the excellent schools of that village and early took to farming. He married when twenty-four years of age and then began farming for himself as a renter here. Some time later he moved to Henry county, where he engaged in farming for five years, or until in 1918, when he returned to Auglaize county and settled on the farm of sixty-three acres (the Slater place) in Clay township on which he and his family are now living, his wife having inherited that place. In addition to his general farming Mr. Emerson gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well. He has ever given proper attention to local civic affairs and for five years served as clerk of the school board. It was on October 11, 1894, that Tipton G. Emerson was united in marriage to Mary Slater, also of the St. Johns neighborhood, and to this union have been born seven children, all of whom are living save one (William), the others being Bessie E., Ralph W., Sophia, Francis M., Robert W. and Alice M., the first two of whom are married. Bessie E. Emerson married Lewis Campbell, a farmer of that neighborhood, and Ralph W. Emerson, who also is farming in Clay township, married Eloise Campbell. Mrs. Mary Emerson was born in Clay town-

ship and is a daughter of William and Sophia (Geyer) Slater, the latter of whom also was born in that township, a member of one of the pioneer families there. William Slater (born Schlachter) was a native of Germany, born in the grand duchy of Baden, and was six years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family settling on a farm in Huron county, Ohio. There William Slater grew to manhood and when eighteen years of age came to Auglaize county to make his home with a widowed sister here. At the age of twenty-one he married here and about five years later moved to Michigan, but about five years later returned to this county and bought a tract of eighty acres in Clay township and settled down to improve and develop the same. He was quite successful in his farming operations and eventually became the owner of a fine farm of 360 acres. Of the four children born to William Slater and wife all are living save one daughter, Elizabeth, who died at the age of thirty-eight years, Mrs. Emerson having a sister, Emma, and a brother, George Slater.

PHILIP F. GRAESSLE, a member of the board of county commissioners for Auglaize county and a well known and substantial farmer and landowner of this county, proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 3 out of Wapakoneta, in the west central portion of Logan township, was born on that farm and has lived there all his life. Mr. Graessle was born on April 15, 1867, and is a son of Daniel and Susan (Hager) Graessle, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that part of the county. The late Daniel Graessle was of European birth but had been a resident of this country since the days of his early childhood, he having been under two years of age when in 1840 his parents, Bernard and Caroline (Maier) Graessle, came to America with their family and proceeded on out into Ohio, settling in Marion county. Bernard Graessle had been a resident of Ellmendingen in the grand duchy of Baden and was there a practical farmer in a small way. Upon locating in Marion county he bought a small farm and there established his home, remaining there until 1854, in which year he disposed of his interests in that county and came over into Auglaize county and bought a "forty" in the woods in the western part of Logan township, about three miles west of the river. He cleared that place, extended his holdings until he became a well-to-do farmer and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1896. Daniel Graessle, who was born on November 26, 1838, was fifteen years of age when he came with his parents to Auglaize county and from the very beginning of his residence here was a helpful factor in the arduous labors of clearing and developing the home farm in Logan township. After his marriage he established his home there, became owner of part of the home place, developed and improved his land

and gradually added to his holdings until he became the owner of 300 acres of land in that part of the county, and on that place spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on March 19, 1909, he then being in the seventy-first year of his age. To Daniel Graessle and wife were born twelve children, all of whom are living save two daughters, Sarah and Catherine, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Caroline, Fanny, Laura and Hannah, and five brothers, John W., George, Louis H., Samuel and Daniel B. Graessle. Reared on the home farm in Logan township, Philip F. Graessle received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and from the days of his boyhood his life has been devoted to farming, with the exception of a period during the days of his young manhood when he was working as a carpenter. He married when twenty-three years of age and then established his home on the old home place, taking over the management of the farm and has ever since been engaged in farming there, having bought a forty of the home acres after his father's death. Mr. Graessle has ever taken a good citizen's interest in local political affairs and in 1920 was elected to represent his district on the board of county commissioners and is thus now serving in that capacity, the other members of the board being John W. Brackney and Elmer H. Youngs. He and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and he is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at Kossuth. It was on December 20, 1890, that Philip F. Graessle was united in marriage to Lorena Zimmerman, who also was born in this county, daughter of Jacob and Susan (Croft) Zimmerman, of Logan township, and to this union ten children have been born, all of whom are living save two sons, Robert F. and Carl B., the latter of whom is one of the numerous "gold star" heroes of the World war from this county. Not long after this country began its decisive participation in the World war in 1917 Carl B. Graessle enlisted his services in behalf of American arms and in September of that year was sent for training to Camp Sheridan, Alabama. There he was made a sergeant and was attached to the 146th infantry regiment of the 37th Division and with that command was dispatched overseas. With this command Carl B. Graessle participated in much active service in France, including the historic battle of the Argonne and in this battle received his fatal wound, his death occurring in base hospital No. 50, Navarre, France, November 5, 1918, six days before the signing of the armistice which brought the great war to its conclusion. The surviving children of the Graessle family are Susan May, Howard, Lela, Edna, Lowell, Andrew, Frederick and Kermit, two of whom, Howard and Lela, are married. Howard Graessle married Edna Wheeler and has one child, a son, Frederick, and Lela Graessle married Stanley Place and has four children, Ned, Mary C., Betty Lorine and Susan.

FERNANDO C. ROMSHE, one of Auglaize county's best known cattle breeders and the proprietor of a well improved farm in the northwestern part of Duchouquet township, about three miles north of Wapakoneta, was born on a farm in the immediate vicinity of where he is now living, December 24, 1881, and is a son of Justus and Rebecca (Shaffer) Romshe, both members of pioneer families in that neighborhood. Justus Romshe, who is still living there, was born on a farm in the northwest quarter of section 6 of Duchouquet township and is a son of George and Mary (McClintock) Romshe, the latter of whom was a member of the pioneer McClintock family which settled in that neighborhood, there along Two Mile creek, in the early days of the settlement of this region, as is set out elsewhere in this volume. George Romshe was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, and was but four years of age when he came to this country with his parents, Justus Romshe and wife, the family proceeding on out into Ohio and settling in the Troy neighborhood in Miami county, moving thence in 1838 to Logan township, this county, about two miles northeast of where Buckland later came to be laid out, the Romshes thus having become recognized as among the early pioneers of that section, the pioneer Justus Romshe dying there in the fall of 1879. On that pioneer farm George Romshe grew to manhood and in turn became a substantial farmer on his own account, the owner of a considerable tract of land lying in Logan and Duchouquet townships, his home being established over the line in this latter township. Forty years and more ago he served for two or three terms as a trustee of Duchouquet township. It was on this farm that Justus Romshe was born and grew to manhood. After his marriage he took up farming on his own account, establishing his home on a tract on Two Mile creek just east of the home place in section 6 of Duchouquet township, and has there ever since resided, now the owner of an admirably improved farm of 130 acres. To him and his wife were born two children, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mollie. Reared on the home farm in Duchouquet township, Fernando C. Romshe received his schooling in the Whiteman school and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the farm. He married when twenty-two years of age and continued farming on the home place for about eight years, or until 1912, when he bought the "eighty" in that neighborhood, on which he is now living, and has ever since resided there. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Romshe has erected a new set of farm buildings, including a fine barn 44 by 92 feet in dimension, and has a well equipped farm plant. For twenty years he has given his thoughtful attention to the breeding of Aberdeen-Angus cattle and is widely known hereabout as a stock man. He is a member of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association and has done his part in ex-

tending the interests of that association throughout the country. He was one of the active promoters of the organization of the Central-Western Ohio Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association and is president of the same, elected four years ago. At an initial meeting held in Chicago in the summer of 1919 and at a subsequent meeting held at Columbus, Ohio, Mr. Romshe was one of the proponents of the movement which brought about the creation of "Aberdeen-Angus Day" in Ohio, and at the first annual picnic of Aberdeen-Angus breeders of this section held at Sidney in the May following (1920) he was elected to preside. At the second meeting held at Wapakoneta on June 26, 1921, he also was in charge, a considerable number of breeders being present not only from this state but from Indiana and Pennsylvania. The third annual meeting was held at Bellefontaine on June 8, 1922, and the current annual meeting is billed for Kenton, May 14, 1923. Mr. Romshe also has given his attention to the general interests of the community in which he lives and is the president of the Buckland Telephone Company. For years he has been an active member of the local grange of the Patrons of Husbandry at Buckland. He and his wife are members of Grace Lutheran church and in their political views maintain an independent attitude. It was on May 18, 1904, that Fernando C. Romshe was united in marriage to Anna M. Frank, who was born at Pittsburgh, Pa., daughter of Adolphus and Lena (Sturm) Frank, and to this union three sons have been born, Howard F., Aubrey G. and Franklin A. The Romshes have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 4 out of Wapakoneta.

ARTHUR S. BAILEY, one of Clay township's well known and substantial farmers and landowners, proprietor of the old Reuben Brackney farm east of St. Johns, is a native "Buckeye" and has lived in this state all his life, a resident of Auglaize county since he was sixteen years of age. Mr. Bailey was born on a farm in Montgomery county, this state, December 17, 1885, and is a son of Napoleon B. and Amanda E. (Carver) Bailey, both of whom also were born in that same county, members of pioneer families there. The late Napoleon B. Bailey started out as a stonecutter when he began to take an active part in affairs but later took up farming and became a substantial landowner of Montgomery county, owner of a farm of 297 acres. To him and his wife were born five children, all of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch (the last in order of birth) having a sister, Ada, and three brothers, Lewis M., Wilbur H. and Walter E. Bailey. When he was sixteen years of age Arthur S. Bailey left the home farm in Montgomery county and came to Auglaize county with his elder brother, Wilbur H. Bailey, who had married and settled in this county. For three years he made his home with his brother and then, at the age of nineteen, was married and started farming on his own account,

renting the farm of his father-in-law, Reuben Brackney, along the highway about two miles east of St. Johns. A year later he bought a farm of sixty-four acres over the line in Union township and began to farm that place, continuing to farm also a part of his father-in-law's farm, and in 1914 bought an adjoining tract of thirty-six acres in Clay township, this giving him 100 acres. In 1916 Mr. Bailey sold this farm to his brother-in-law, C. C. Emerson, and then bought his father-in-law's farm of 183 acres and has since been operating the latter place, one of the well improved farms in that neighborhood. In addition to his general farming Mr. Bailey feeds off about a car load of cattle and about fifty hogs a year and is doing well. It was on November 24, 1904, that Arthur S. Bailey was united in marriage to Jennie Brackney, who was born and reared on the farm on which she is now living, daughter of Reuben and Samantha J. (Lusk) Brackney, both members of pioneer families in Clay township, and to this union three children have been born, Robert E., Howard E. and Roger S., the first named of whom is attending high school at Wapakoneta, a member of the class of 1925. Mr. and Mrs. Bailey are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at St. Johns and are Republicans. Their home is quite pleasantly situated along the Wapakoneta-Bellefontaine paved highway, rural mail route No. 1 out of Wapakoneta.

CARL DITMAR FISCHER, president of the Wapakoneta Machine Company and general manager of that company's extensive plant at Wapakoneta, was born at Wapakoneta July 23, 1881, son of Carl Daniel and Louise (Upmeyer) Fischer. The late Carl Daniel Fischer in his generation was looked upon as one of the most important personal factors in the development of the industrial life of this section of Ohio, all of which is set out in a memorial sketch relating to him elsewhere in this volume and to which the attention of the reader is invited in this connection. Of the four children born to Carl Daniel and Louise (Upmeyer) Fischer two survive, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Emil J. Fischer, now living at Terre Haute, Ind., president of the Standard Wheel Company of that city. There were two daughters, Margaret and Amelia, now deceased. Reared at Wapakoneta, Carl Ditmar Fischer received his early schooling in the schools of that city and supplemented this by a course in Rose Polytechnic Institute at Terre Haute, his studies and research there being specially directed with a view to taking an active part in the conduct of his father's extensive manufacturing interests. He was graduated from that institution with the degree of Mechanical Engineer, and spent another year of close application to the practical side of these studies at Indianapolis. In 1904 he assumed charge as general superintendent of the plant of the Wapakoneta Machine Company, which his father had established in 1891. In 1906 he was made general manager of this concern and following the death of his

CARL DITMAR FISCHER

father in 1921 was made president of the company, the position which he now occupies. Without disparagement to the direction of this concern's affairs during the earlier years of its growth, it may be said with propriety that the plant's greatest expansion has taken place since Carl Ditmar Fischer's incumbency as general manager. The Wapakoneta Machine Company's specialty is machine knives and tools, with particular reference to heavy shear knives for rolling mill use and other special purposes. The products of the plant enjoy a special distinction in a most exacting field, these products not only being shipped generally throughout this country but entering largely into the export trade. During the time of this country's participation in the World war the plant of the Wapakoneta Machine Company was dedicated practically 75 per cent. to war work, operations being carried on day and night in order to expedite its manufacture of hubs for artillery carriages and escort wagons and of special shear knives used in the cutting of the steel plates for battleships. Like all busy men, Mr. Fischer finds himself constantly called upon to further the general civic and social movements of the community and he ever has given of himself unsparingly in behalf of such movements as are calculated to advance the common good. As was his father before him, he is a leader in the local Chamber of Commerce and has served that body as president. He also is active in the counsels of the local Kiwanis Club at Wapakoneta, which has translated its motto "We Build" into actualities which lately have become apparent in numerous important directions. Mr. Fischer is a Republican and from the days of his young manhood has been an active participant in the councils of that party in this county. He is a member of the city school board and in that connection has rendered a real service to the schools of the city. During the recent (1922) campaign he was an active factor in behalf of the school bond issue, a measure designed to provide adequate funds for the expansion of the school facilities of Wapakoneta. This measure carried by a substantial majority. Mr. Fischer is a Freemason of high degree, a member of the blue lodge at Wapakoneta, and has attained to the Scottish Rite (32°) of that ancient order, affiliated with the consistory at Dayton, and is likewise a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, affiliated with the temple at Dayton. He also is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and has attained to the encampment degree of that order, and is also one of the active members of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. Mr. Fischer's most delightful diversions are music and tennis. He is an enthusiastic tennis "fan" and is now serving as president of the local tennis association, made up of the more ardent devotees of that popular sport hereabout. He is a skilled musician and contributes his services as pianist to

the gatherings of the Elks and of the Kiwanis Club. On September 18, 1905, Carl Ditmar Fischer was united in marriage to Bertha May Boyer, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Boyer, of Terre Haute, Ind., and to this union two children have been born, daughters both, Jessie Marian and Doris Marie. Mr. and Mrs. Fischer are members of St. Paul's Evangelical church at Wapakoneta and take a proper interest in the general affairs of that congregation. They have a very pleasant home at 718 West Auglaize street.

CHARLES C. NEFF, one of the well known farmers and landowners of Logan township and the proprietor of a well improved farm on rural mail route No. 3 out of Spencerville, where he has made his home for the past ten years, is a member of one of the pioneer families in this county, a family that has been represented here for nearly sixty-five years. Mr. Neff was born on a farm in Logan township, this county, July 14, 1874, and is a son of John and Abilia (Zerkel) Neff, the latter of whom is a member of the well known Zerkel family of Logan township, which has been prominently represented there since the days of the settlement of that part of the county. John Neff, who is now living retired at Lima, was born in Marion county, Ohio, and was nine years of age when in 1858 he came with his parents, Christian and Magdalena Neff (natives of Germany), to Auglaize county, the family settling on a tract of eighty acres of land which Christian Neff bought just east of the river opposite the site of old Ft. Amanda, in Logan township. On that farm John Neff grew to manhood. After his marriage to Abilia Zerkel he began farming on his own account, renting the Elizabeth Zerkel farm of ninety-three acres in Logan township, and thus continued there as a renter for twenty-one years, after which he bought the Lewis Zerkel farm of 120 acres and continued to make his home there until 1920, when he retired from the farm and moved to Lima, where he and his wife are now living. John Neff was a good farmer and in addition to his place in Logan township he also had a farm of seventy-seven acres in Allen county, which he has sold. To him and his wife have been born eleven children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having six sisters, Laura, Lena, Elizabeth, Stella, Almedia and Almira, and four brothers, Simon, Solomon, Alva and Lawrence Neff. Reared on the home farm in Logan township, Charles C. Neff received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained on the farm until he was twenty-four years of age, when in 1898 he became interested in oil development projects and took up work in the oil fields. For fifteen years Mr. Neff was thus connected with the oil fields and then, in 1913, he bought the Neff homestead farm of eighty acres in Logan township on which he is now living and has ever since resided there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. On October 29, 1900, Charles C. Neff

was united in marriage to Martha Whetstone, daughter of Lewis Whetstone, also a member of one of the pioneer families of Logan township, and to this union one child has been born, a son, Merl V. Neff. Mr. and Mrs. Neff are members of the Antioch Christian Union church and are Democrats. Since taking possession of the farm on which he is now living Mr. Neff has made numerous substantial improvements and has a well equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming he is giving considerable attention to the raising of live stock and is doing well in his operations.

JACOB GROSS, a well known farmer and landowner of Clay township, proprietor of a well improved farm in the St. Johns neighborhood, was born at Olden, Mo., October 18, 1871, and is a son of William and Caroline (Welsh) Gross, the latter of whom was an Alsatian by birth and had come to this country with her parents when she was twelve years of age, the family proceeding from the port of New York on out here into Ohio and settling in Auglaize county. The late William Gross was born in Clay township, this county, and most of his life was spent here engaged in farming, though for a few years following his marriage he made his home in Missouri. His widow survived him and the last ten years of her life were spent in the home of one of her daughters in Wells county, Indiana, where she met her death in the cyclone that swept over that section in 1920. William Gross and wife were the parents of eight children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Sophia and Gertrude, and five brothers, Adam, Frank, Otto, Lawrence and William Gross. Jacob Gross was but a child when his parents returned to this county from Missouri and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Clay township, receiving his schooling in the Rinehart school (district No. 8). He early began working on his own account and as a young man took a trip through the West, spending one summer in the Dakotas. Then he spent a year in Chicago working on a tug boat and upon his return home resumed farming. He married at the age of twenty-four and then rented the farm of his father-in-law, the David Brackney place in Clay township, and was engaged in farming that place for about twelve years, at the end of which time he sold his farm equipment and for five years thereafter was engaged in farming for others. In 1917 Mr. Gross resumed farming as a renter and in the following year bought the farm of fifty acres on which he is now living in Clay township and which he since has improved in admirable fashion. In addition to carry on the operations of this place Mr. Gross rents an adjoining farm of 150 acres and thus is cultivating 200 acres of excellent Clay township land. In addition to his general farming he feeds out about seventy-five hogs a year and is doing well. It was on March 3, 1896, that Jacob Gross was united in marriage to Flora Brackney, daughter of David and Hannah (Jack-

son) Brackney, of Clay township, and to this union two children have been born, a son and a daughter, Frank Gross, born on September 3, 1898, and Lucile, September 4, 1912. The Gross home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Wapakoneta, the paved highway. Mrs. Gross is one of a family of twelve children born to her parents. Of these children five are still living, Mrs. Gross having three sisters, Tola, Gerna and Martha, and a brother, Moody Brackney. Her father, David Brackney, is one of the well known farmers of Clay township, the owner of 112 acres of land there, and is a member of the pioneer Brackney family which was established here in 1836, not long after the Indians had left this region.

FRED BURDEN, who is associated with his brother, Elsworth Burden, in the sawmilling business at Wapakoneta and who also is a partner in the Burden & Salms saw mill at New Bremen, one of the best known lumbermen hereabout, was born in Auglaize county and has lived here pretty much all his life, the exception being a period during which he was employed at Dayton and later when for a time he operated a saw mill at Anna, down over the line in Shelby county. Mr. Burden was born at Wapakoneta on March 23, 1876, and is a son of John M. and Rachel (Bechdolt) Burden, natives of Pennsylvania and the latter of whom died when he was a child. John M. Burden, who was for years engaged in the sawmilling business at Wapakoneta, founder of the mill now operated by his sons, was an expert cabinet maker, a vocation he long followed. He also was for some time engaged in farming, the proprietor of a farm east of Wapakoneta. About the year 1894 he set up a saw mill at Wapakoneta and continued operating that mill until his sons Elsworth and Fred took it over in 1916, since which time he has been living retired at Wapakoneta. He was twice married. By his first wife, Rachel Bechdolt, he had five children, all of whom are living save one who died in infancy, the others (besides the subject of this sketch) being Elsworth, William and Louella. By his second marriage he had six children, all of whom are living save Myrtle, who died at the age of nine years, the others being Ancil, Stella, Pearl, Arley and Gerald. Fred Burden completed his schooling at Wapakoneta and after leaving school he was for a time engaged working as a farm hand. He then, when nineteen years old, went to Dayton, where he worked for two years, at the end of which time he returned to Wapakoneta and began working in his father's mill and not long afterward, at the age of twenty-three, was married. For eight years he continued working at the saw mill and then he moved out onto a truck farm and was for two years engaged in truck gardening. He then went to Springfield, where he spent seventeen months working in the handle factory and then returned to Wapakoneta and resumed truck gardening, continuing thus engaged

FRED BURDEN

for five years, at the end of which time he bought a saw mill at Anna and was engaged in operating that plant for four years, or until in 1916, when he sold that mill and returned to Wapakoneta and in association with his elder brother, Elsworth Burden, bought the old established mill of his father and has since been engaged in business in that city. Extensive improvements have been made to this plant since the brothers took it over and it has built up a large trade, particularly in the manufacture of timbers for heavy construction work. It also was in 1916 that Mr. Burden started the mill at New Bremen, operated under the firm name of Burden & Salms, and in the two plants about forty persons are employed. The Burden enterprises buy standing timber and ship lumber all over the country. It was on November 6, 1898, that Fred Burden was united in marriage to Adella Kinninger, who also was born in Wapakoneta, in the house in which she and her husband are now living, daughter of Anthony and Emma (Bignos) Kinninger, and to this union four children have been born, all of whom are living save one, Louella, who died in infancy, the others being Edwin, Venard and Bernice, the two latter of whom are still at home. Edwin Burden, now manager of the Auglaize Granite Block Company of Wapakoneta, married Margaret McAtee and has one child, a son, James, born on May 5, 1922. Mr. and Mrs. Burden are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Wapakoneta and are Republicans. Mr. Burden is a member of the local council of the Knights of Columbus, of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and of the local lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose at Wapakoneta and in the affairs of these several organizations takes an active interest.

L. J. THRUSH, better known to his many friends in this county as "Dode" Thrush, president of the board of education for Clay township and one of the best known farmers of that township, proprietor of a well improved farm, a part of the old William Thrush estate in section 11, was born on that section, June 12, 1865, and is a son of William and Elizabeth (Rhoades) Thrush, who had settled there about ten years prior to that date and had become useful and influential pioneers of that neighborhood, the old Lusk settlement. The late William Thrush was born in Fairfield county, this state, the son of John and Ellen Thrush, and had grown up thoroughly trained in the ways of farming. When a young boy he moved with his parents to Logan county and later went over to Delaware county and was there married to Elizabeth Rhoades, who was born in Virginia and who had come to Ohio with her parents when but a child, the family settling in Delaware county. Not long after their marriage William Thrush and his wife came on up into Auglaize county and settled on a "forty" in section 11 of Clay township, where they established their

home. That was about 1855. Mr. Thrush was a good farmer and manager and as his affairs prospered he added to his holdings until he became the owner of 400 acres of land in Clay township and was accounted one of the go-ahead and substantial citizens of the county. He lived to a ripe old age, his death occurring in 1904, and at his passing left a good memory in the community which he had done much to develop. In 1864 he had become associated with the Bethel Methodist Protestant church near his home. To William Thrush and wife were born nine children, of whom all are living save two, Lavina and George W., the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Delitha, Florence and Belle, and three brothers, Byron R., Martin D. and Elmer Thrush. Reared on the home farm in Clay township, "Dode" Thrush received his schooling in the Lusk school (district No. 1) and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the farm. He married in his twentieth year and then rented one of his father's farms and on that place made his home for about four years, or until 1889, when he moved to another of his father's farms, the place on which he is now living, and after his father's death in 1904 came into possession of this place by inheritance and has continued to reside there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Thrush has a well equipped farm of 156 acres and in addition to his general farming gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding out about eighty hogs a year. In his present operations he is being ably assisted by his fourth son, Cecil, who is married and makes his home on the farm. It was on March 5, 1885, that L. J. Thrush was united in marriage to Nora G. Lusk, who also was born in Clay township, daughter of Wesley and Rachel (Chiles) Lusk, members of pioneer families there, and to this union have been born eight children, Grover, Harley, Atha, Hazel, Percy, Cleta, Cecil and Russell, all of whom are married save the last named, who is still in school, attending the Lusk school, which both his father and his mother had attended in their school days. Grover Thrush married Mrs. Leona (Idle) Moore, who by her first marriage is the mother of one child, a son, Clay Moore, and is farming in Clay township. Harley Thrush, who is farming in Wayne township, married Lulu Wells and has one child, a son, Paul. Atha Thrush married Carl McPharon, now living at Bellefontaine, district agent for the Middleton Mutual Life Insurance Company, and has two children, Ruth and Jeannette. Hazel Thrush married Eldon Wilcox, a Union township farmer, and has five children, Earl, Robert, Howard, Wesley and Warren G. Percy Thrush, who also is farming in Union township, married Hazel Naus and has one child, Maurice. Cleta Thrush married Emery Coats, a carpenter, living in Clay township, and has one child, Jean; and Cecil Thrush, who remains on the home farm, assisting his father in the management of the same, married Blanche

Rhoades and has two children, June and Roland. The Thrush home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Johns and has for many years enjoyed an enviable reputation for hospitality. Mr. Thrush is one of the leading Democrats of Clay township and has for some time been serving on the local board of education for that township, the present president of the board. He formerly, years ago, served for five years as a constable in that township and there are few men in that part of the county who have a wider acquaintance than he. For one term he served as treasurer of the Auglaize County Fair Association.

SEABURY CHILES, known familiarly among his many friends as "Bose" Chiles, former assessor of Union township, now living in Clay township, where he owns a well improved farm and is comfortably situated, was born in Auglaize county and has lived here all his life, a period of more than sixty-six years. Mr. Chiles was born on a farm just east of the Wesley Chapel church in the north half of section 26 of Union township, February 22, 1857, and is a son of William and Temperance (Richardson) Chiles, both members of pioneer families in that part of the county, the Richardsons having settled here in 1834 and the Chiles in 1836. William Chiles was reared on a pioneer farm in Union township and after his marriage became engaged in farming on his own account, the owner of a farm of ninety acres, on which his last days were spent. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, five of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Rachel and Alice, and two brothers, Cicero B. and Fernando T. Chiles. Reared on the farm on which he was born, "Bose" Chiles received his schooling in the White school (district No. 7) and from the days of his boyhood has given his attention to farming. He married at the age of twenty-one and then began farming on his own account, renting a farm in that neighborhood, and remained on that place for thirty years, or until 1908, when he bought the farm of fifty-five acres on which he is now living in Clay township and has since resided here. Since taking possession of this place Mr. Chiles has made numerous improvements and now has an excellent farm plant. In addition to his general farming he has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock, feeding out about fifty hogs a year, and has done well. He has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and for two terms during the time of his residence in Union township served as assessor of that township. It was on August 25, 1878, that Seabury Chiles was united in marriage to Belle Roney, also of Union township, and to this union four children were born, namely: Grace, who is the wife of E. J. Bowsher, express agent at Wapakoneta; Ruby, who married Harry Spees, who is now employed in the railway round house at Lima, and has seven children, Paul, Donald, Ralph, Edward, Koneta, Walter and Jamie;

Monte Daisy, who died on November 11, 1896, aged thirteen years, and Kittie E., who married Grover C. Oakley, a building contractor at Maplewood in the neighboring county of Shelby, and died on April 8, 1918, leaving three children, Marvin, Juanita and Bernard. Mrs. Chiles was born on July 29, 1860, and was reared in Union township, receiving her schooling in the Basil school. She is a daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Barr) Roney, who were the parents of six children, two of whom are still living, Mrs. Chiles having a sister, Mary. Joseph Roney was a master mechanic, skilled worker in both wood and iron, and was at one time the foreman in the old machine shop at Lima. The Chiles home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Johns.

CHARLES McCLINTOCK, a member of one of the pioneer families of Duchouquet township and a well known and substantial farmer and landowner of that township, was born on the place on which he is now living, in the northwestern part of the township, and has lived there all his life with the exception of some years during the time of the height of the oil "boom" in this region when he was engaged in oil production activities, making his home then at Lima, Mr. McClintock was born on November 11, 1856, and is a son of Charles and Mary Jane (Steen) McClintock, who were among the influential pioneers of that part of Auglaize county. The senior Charles McClintock was born in County Donegal, Ireland. As a young man, in 1836, he came to American shores, making the acquaintance on the way over of a County Donegal girl, Mary Jane Steen, whom he married not long after their arrival at New Brunswick. Three years later, in 1839, he and his wife came to Ohio with a view to making their home in this state. At Columbus they secured the service of a man with a one-horse wagon to convey their household stuff to Springfield, paying him $20 for the trip. There he decided to settle on a farm a mile and a half northeast of Fletcher, over in the adjoining county of Miami and he paid the wagoner another $20 to get his goods over there. On that farm in the Fletcher neighborhood the McClintocks remained for eight years, or until in 1847, the year before Auglaize county was erected, when they came up here and settled on a "forty" which Mr. McClintock had bought along Two Mile creek in the northwest corner of Duchouquet township (section 31), which then was included in Allen county, the family home being established there on October 16, 1847. The hospitable neighbors rallied around and gave every assistance in the labor of erecting a double log house for the newcomers and during the two weeks while this constructive work was going on Mr. and Mrs. McClintock and their children were entertained in the home of John Hoop, storage for their goods being provided in the Hoop barn. The family moved into their new log house before it properly was com-

CHARLES McCLINTOCK AND FAMILY

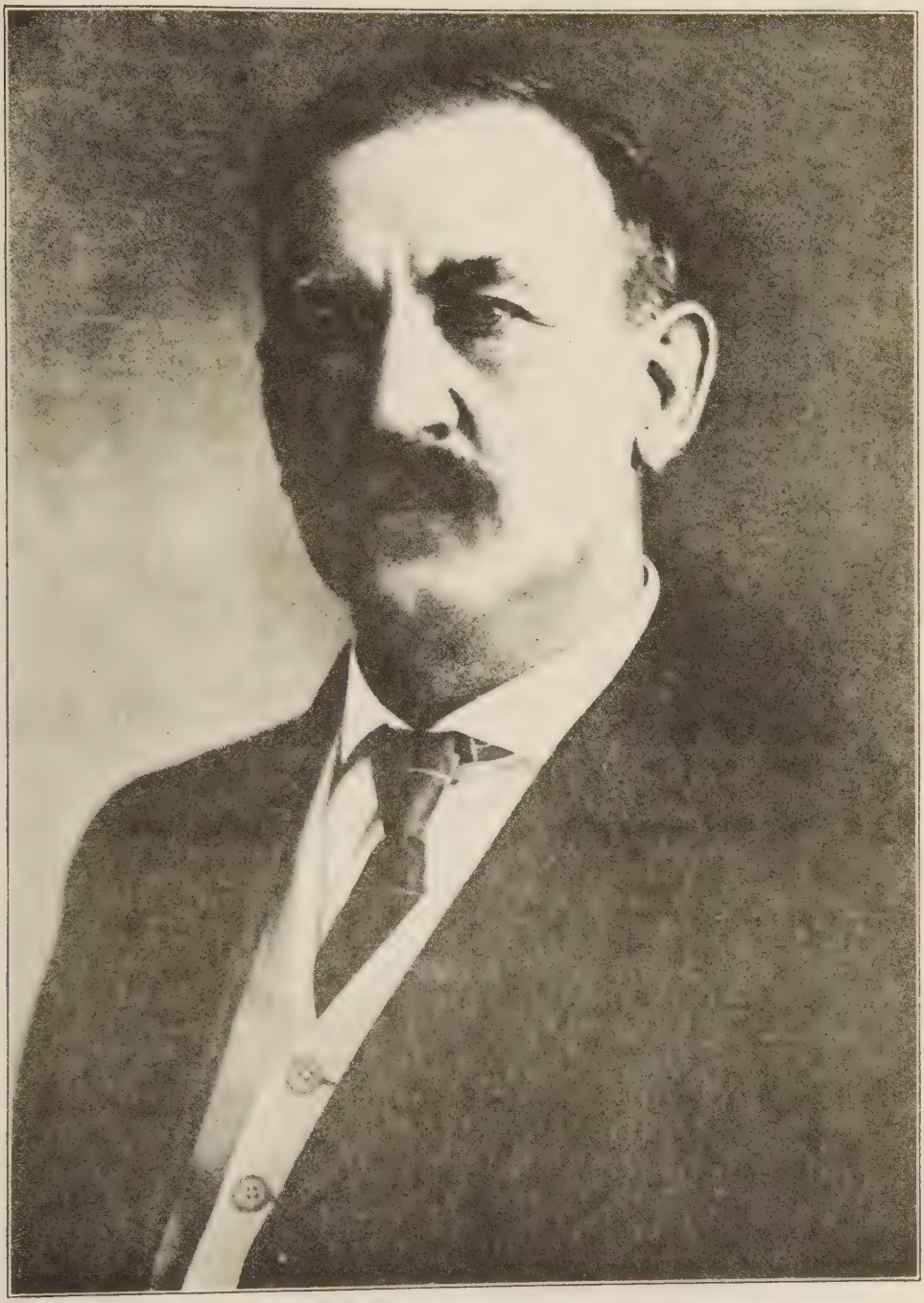
pleted and then settled down to the arduous task of developing the farm. Not long afterward Mr. McClintock broke one of his ankles and was for some time laid up, a serious interruption to his plans, but he presently got things under way and in good time the family was well established. Mr. McClintock cleared and improved that place and enlarged his holdings by the purchase of an adjoining tract of something more than 120 acres and there resided until the time of his retirement from the farm and removal to Wapakoneta, where his last days were spent. He and his wife were the parents of nine children, two of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Nancy. The deceased children of this family were John, Andrew, William, Margaret, Mary Elizabeth, Barbara Ann and Sarah Ellen, and the McClintocks of this pioneer family in the present generation form a considerable group. During the time of the Civil war the three elder sons of this family, John, Andrew and William McClintock, served as soldiers of the Union, the latter having been but seventeen years of age when he enlisted. Reared on the pioneer farm on which he was born, the junior Charles McClintock received his schooling in the neighborhood school (old district No. 9) and from the days of his boyhood gave his attention to the affairs of the farm. He married when in his twenty-first year and continued farming until the oil "boom" came on in the latter '80s, when he became interested in the activities attendant on the development of the oil field in this region and moved to Lima, where he resided for seven years, at the end of which time he returned to the farm, bought that part of the old home place on which he is now living, and has since resided there, successfully engaged in farming. In addition to his farm of 107 acres Mr. McClintock owns business property in Lima and has other interests to engage his attention. He and his wife are members of the Lutheran church and are Democrats. He is a member of the local camp of the Woodmen at Wapakoneta. It was on October 18, 1875, that Charles McClintock was united in marriage to Mary Ann Bowsher, also a member of one of the pioneer families of that part of the county, daughter of Oliver and Sarah (Bowers) Bowsher, and to this union have been born five children, Maude, Harley, Ferd, Harry and Lela, all of whom are married. Maude McClintock married W. M. Boyshell and has one child, a son, Donovan. Harry McClintock married Nellie Rafferty and has two children, Charles and Harold. Ferd McClintock married Edna Hay. Harry McClintock married Lida Shively and has two children, Naomi and Virgil, and Lela McClintock married Joshua Winget and has one child, a son, Oliver Mack. The McClintocks have a very pleasant home on rural mail route No. 4 out of Wapakoneta. Since taking possession of this place Mr. McClintock has made numerous substantial improvements on the place and has a well equipped farm plant. Mrs. McClintock's

father, Oliver Bowsher, was born in Pickaway county, this state, a son of Benjamin Bowsher. He was married in Allen county, his wife having moved there with her parents who came from Stark county.

ARTHUR B. MUSSER, D. V. M., a veterinary surgeon at Wapakoneta and one of the best known citizens of this county, is a native son of Auglaize county and has resided here all his life save for a period of some years when he was engaged as a traveling salesman for a Philadelphia house. Doctor Musser was born on a farm in Moulton township, three miles northwest of Wapakoneta, November 25, 1884, and is a son of Frederick A. and Julia Jeanette (Hamilton) Musser, the latter of whom also was born in this county, September 11, 1850, a daughter of David J. and Mary Hamilton, who were among the pioneers of Moulton township, Auglaize county. The late Frederick A. Musser, an honored veteran of the Civil war, was born in the village of Rushville, in Fairfield county, this state, January 17, 1840, and was a son of John Musser, who was born at Elizabethtown, Pa., October 16, 1799, a son of Theobald and Christine (Binkley) Musser, the latter of whom was a daughter of Christopher Binkley, of Hagerstown, Md. Theobald Musser was born in Fredericktown, Md., and was a son of a Swiss immigrant who had come to this country and had settled in Maryland about the year 1750. After his marriage Theobald Musser settled at Elizabethtown, Pa., but a few years later came to Ohio and located in Fairfield county, where he entered a tract of land and where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1847. His widow survived him until 1853. They were the parents of ten children. John Musser, one of these children, was but a babe in arms when his parents came to Ohio Territory in 1801 and he grew to manhood in Fairfield county, where he married and where he remained until the summer of 1852 when he came to Auglaize county, driving through with his family in a covered wagon, and settled on a farm in Moulton township. There by his industry he acquired a farm of 160 acres of excellent land and came to be accounted one of the substantial citizens of that part of the county. He was one of the organizers of the Presbyterian church at Wapakoneta, cutting timber for the same and hauling it to the church site, and ever took a prominent part in community good works. His wife, who was Rachel McCullom, of Perry county, and whom he married in 1826, died on August 20, 1861, and he survived her many years, his death occurring on August 18, 1895, he then being in his ninety-sixth year. John Musser had rendered considerable service in the old Ohio State Militia, in which he served for seven years prior to his coming to this county and in which he had risen from the ranks to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He originally was a stanch Whig and upon the organization of the Republican party became an equally ardent supporter of the principles of that party. Frederick A. Musser, son of this pioneer

couple, was twelve years of age when he came to this county with his parents in 1852 and he grew to manhood on the home farm in Moulton township, receiving his schooling in the pioneer schools of that neighborhood. Upon leaving school he became engaged as a teacher and was thus engaged during the winters until the breaking out of the Civil war. In the fall of 1861 he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front as a member of Company H, 16th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he was serving when taken prisoner by the enemy at the battle of Chickasaw Bluffs. For six months thereafter he was held in the Confederate military prisons at Vicksburg and Jackson and then was exchanged and rejoined his regiment, afterward seeing service in Sherman's army and later with Banks on the latter's Red River expedition. Upon the completion of his military service in the fall of 1865 he returned home and resumed his place on the farm and also resumed his teaching, in which latter service he continued engaged for twelve years, at the end of which time he began to devote his whole attention to his growing farming interests in Moulton township, where he had an eighty-acre farm one mile southeast of Buckland, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring on April 19, 1916. His widow survived him until November 4, 1921. They were the parents of ten children, of whom but two are now living, Doctor Musser having a brother, Major Robert C. Musser, of the Veterinary Corps of the United States Army, now stationed at Camp Dix. Dr. A. B. Musser's early schooling was obtained in the district school in the neighborhood of his boyhood home in Moulton township and in the schools of the village of Buckland. He then entered Ohio Northern University at Ada and was graduated from that institution with the degree of Bachelor of Science. Thus equipped by preparatory study he entered Ohio State University, where he took the veterinary course, and in 1909 was graduated from that institution. He then took a position with the H. K. Mulford Company, of Philadelphia, as a traveling representative of that concern and was thus engaged until 1916, when he returned home and became engaged in the practice of veterinary surgery and medicine in Moulton township, where he remained until his removal in 1919 to Wapakoneta, where he since has been engaged in practice, one of the most widely known veterinary surgeons in this section of the state. On June 29, 1916, Dr. A. B. Musser was united in marriage to Robina Dow, who was born in Scotland, daughter of John and Jean (McKay) Dow, who came from Scotland in 1908, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, A. B., Jr. and John Frederick. Doctor and Mrs. Musser are members of the Presbyterian church at Wapakoneta, the church which the former's grandfather helped to organize. The Doctor is a Republican, a Freemason, and a member of the Wapakoneta lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

LOUIS HUENKE, president of the White Mountain Creamery Company of New Bremen and of the White Mountain Dairy Company of Lima, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Huenke was born on a farm in the southern part of St. Marys township on December 3, 1854, and is a son of Henry and Louise Huenke, both of whom were born in Germany but who became residents of this county in the days of their youth and whose last days were spent here. Henry Huenke was but a boy when he came to this country and located at New Bremen not long after that village was established in the '30s. He was living there when operations on the canal began and he took a part in the construction both of the canal and of the great reservoir west of St. Marys. For a time after his marriage he conducted a tavern at New Bremen and then became engaged in farming in that neighborhood, afterward moving to a farm in St. Marys township. He began farming as a renter but as his affairs prospered, found himself able after awhile to buy a farm of his own in St. Marys township and he gradually increased his holdings until he became the owner of 300 acres of excellent land and was accounted one of the substantial landowners of the county. His last days were spent on the farm and he was eighty years of age at the time of his death. To him and his wife were born ten children, of whom five are still living, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, William and August Huenke, and two sisters, Mrs. Louise Heil and Mrs. Alice Schmidt. Louis Huenke was reared on the home farm in St. Marys township and received his schooling in the schools of that neighborhood. He left school when thirteen years of age and his time thereafter was devoted to aiding his father in the development of the farm, where he continued to work until his marriage at the age of twenty-seven, after which he started farming on his own account on a part of his father's land. In the following year he bought 120 acres of the farm on which he is now living in the immediate neighborhood of New Bremen and there established his home. In addition to his general farming, carried on on that place, Mr. Huenke also became engaged in the buying and selling of live stock, both cattle and horses, and not long after establishing his home there began to develop a profitable dairy business, later adding to his farm an adjoining tract of fifty acres. It was in 1885 that Mr. Huenke started in the creamery business, erecting a plant 22 by 24 feet in dimensions, which had a capacity of forty or fifty pounds of butter a day. The business under his thoughtful management expanded as the excellence of his product came to be recognized, until it has grown into the present extensive White Mountain Creamery Company of New Bremen, with Mr. Huenke as president of the same and with four efficient plants in the county with an aggregate capacity of 30,000 pounds of butter a day and buying stations in all convenient sections of this and



LOUIS HUENKE

adjacent counties. In 1921 the combined products of this company aggregated no less than 4,250,000 pounds of butter. The company has extensive branches at St. Marys and at Lima and an ice cream plant at the latter place as well as at New Bremen. Each of these several creameries has its own artificial ice plant and all operations are carried on in accordance with the most approved and up-to-date methods. Mr. Huenke is a Republican and for ten years served the public as a member of the town council at New Bremen. He is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias in his home town and of the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. In 1882 Louis Huenke was united in marriage to Emma Wulfeck and to this union three children have been born, Clifford, Gertrude and Howard, the latter of whom married Verona Langhorst. Clifford Huenke, vice president and general manager of the White Mountain Creamery Company, married Martha Diecker. Gertrude Huenke married Harry Komminsk and has two children, Paul Louis and Dorothy.

HOWARD H. HUENKE, foreman of the extensive plant of the White Mountain Creamery Company at New Bremen and one of the most alert and energetic young men of that city, was born at New Bremen on July 11, 1891, and is a son of Louis and Emma (Wulfeck) Huenke, the former of whom is president of the White Mountain Creamery Company and founder of the extensive establishment he has developed there and concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this volume. Reared at New Bremen, Howard H. Huenke received his early schooling in the excellent schools of that city. From the days of his boyhood he was attracted to the growing business his father had established there as the head of the White Mountain Creamery Company and he early decided to put in his lot with that of the creamery. In order further to qualify himself for what he thus recognized as his life work he entered the agricultural college of Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa, and there took a special course in dairying and butter making, the course in this line at Ames being recognized as perhaps the most thorough and effective of any similar institution in the United States. Thus amply equipped for the work for which he was preparing himself, Mr. Huenke returned to New Bremen and was installed as foreman of the plant of the White Mountain Creamery company there, with special charge of the production end of the establishment. The new equipment installed in the creamery since he took charge and the new methods introduced by him have done much not only to increase production but to improve the quality of the plant's output and he has come to be recognized as one of the ablest young creamery men in the middle West. In 1916 Howard H. Huenke was united in marriage to Verona Langhorst, daughter of Edward Langhorst and also a member of one

of the pioneer families of Auglaize county, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at New Bremen. They are members of St. Paul's Lutheran church and take a proper interest in church affairs as well as in the general social activities of the community. Mr. Huenke is a member of the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at New Bremen and of the lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta.

ELMER DELNO SNYDER, one of the well known and progressive young farmers and stockmen of Clay township and the proprietor of a well improved farm in the immediate neighborhood of St. Johns, was born in that township on May 23, 1891, and is a son of Enos N. and Ellen (Clark) Snyder, both of whom also were born in that township and who are still living there. Enos N. Snyder was born on February 17, 1861, and is a son of Jacob and Mary A. (Oxley) Snyder, both of whom were born in this county and who after their marriage established their home on a farm in Clay township, where both died just as they were getting a good start, the latter not yet twenty-four years of age at the time of her death and the former just past twenty-four. They left four children, of whom Enos N. Snyder now alone survives. He was but an infant when he was orphaned and he was taken care of by his grandparents until he was seven years of age, after which he was taken into the household of his uncle, Allen Copeland, and there grew to manhood, receiving his schooling in the Dearbaugh school. After he had attained his majority he took up the trade of plastering, a vocation he followed for about twenty years, meanwhile marrying when about thirty years of age. When he began farming he made his home on a farm of forty acres on the Geyer pike, in Clay township, and there lived until 1912, when he moved to his present farm in that same township. Mr. Snyder and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church and are Republicans. He has rendered public service as a trustee of Clay township and also has served on the school board, president of the same for some time. It was on June 29, 1890, that Enos N. Snyder was united in marriage to Ellen Clark, who also was born in Clay township, daughter of Samuel and Nancy (Dudgeon) Clark, who were the parents of five children, two of whom are living, Mrs. Snyder having a brother, William Clark. To Enos N. and Ellen (Clark) Snyder five children have been born, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having a brother, Leo Snyder, now farming in Shelby county, who married Hazel Dearbaugh and has a son, Ned J., and a sister, Ola, who married William Young, who is employed on the line of the Western Ohio Electric Railway Company, and has two children, Cretoria and Ralph. Reared on the home farm in Clay township, Elmer Delno Snyder received his schooling in the local schools. He married in the month after he had attained his majority

and then began farming on his own account, renting the farm on which he is now living and was there engaged in farming for two years, at the end of which time he moved to St. Johns and there became engaged in the garage business. Two years later he sold out his establishment there and returned to the farm, which he bought in 1919, and has since made his home there, he and his family being very comfortably situated. Mr. Snyder has a well improved place of ninety-six acres and gives his special attention to the raising of hogs. It was on June 27, 1912, that Elmer Delno Snyder was united in marriage to Hazel Coleman, who also was born in Clay township, daughter of John M. and Catherine (Chambers) Coleman, both members of pioneer families in that township, and to this union three children have been born, namely: Jessalyn, born on May 9, 1917; Johanna, April 21, 1919, and Betty L., March 24, 1921. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder are members of the Methodist Episcopal church at St. Johns and are Republicans.

ROY SHAW, a well known and progressive young farmer of Union township, stock buyer and dealer in all kinds of livestock and proprietor of "Cloverdale Stock Farm" just northeast of Uniopolis, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county, the Shaws having been represented here since the year marking the departure of the Indians from this region. Mr. Shaw was born on a farm in Duchouquet township on October 11, 1887, and is a son of John M. and Sarah (Brentlinger) Shaw, who are still living in that township. John M. Shaw was born in that same township and is a son of Marshall Shaw, who was a son of the pioneer, Neal Shaw, who came here with his family from Virginia in 1832 and established his home in the woods in the vicinity of where Cridersville later was laid out. The Shaws have been prominently represented here ever since. John M. Shaw grew up on the home farm in Duchouquet township and after his marriage established his home on a farm in that same township and has ever since been engaged in farming, now the owner of a well kept farm of forty-four acres. He and his wife have four sons, the subject of this sketch having three brothers, Lawrence, Harvey and Homer Shaw. Reared on the home farm in Duchouquet township, Roy Shaw received his schooling in the neighborhood schools and remained with his father on the farm, helpful in the operations of the same, until after his marriage in his twenty-second year, when he moved to the farm of 103 acres in Union township, of which he is now the owner. Mr. Shaw is carrying on his farm operations in accordance with modern methods of agriculture and is doing well, feeding out 100 head of hogs and a car load of cattle annually. He is a Democrat and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Knights of Pythias at Uniopolis. It was in July, 1909, that Roy Shaw was united in marriage to Blanche Miller, who was born in Union town-

ship, daughter of Joseph J. and Martha (Hardin) Miller, both members of pioneer families of that township, as is set out elsewhere in this volume, and to this union three children have been born, Milo Miller, Myron H. and Mildred Chloe. The Shaws have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis and are very comfortably situated there.

HERMAN H. HOGE, a well known mill and lumberman of New Knoxville, a former member of the village council and for years recognized as one of the real "live wires" of that flourishing community, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has resided here all his life, active in business and industrial affairs since the days of his young manhood. Mr. Hoge was born on a farm about two miles east of New Knoxville on September 7, 1869, and is a son of Henry and Henrietta (Wellemeyer) Hoge, who had come to this region with their respective parents from Germany in the days of their youth and were here married. The late Henry Hoge, for many years one of the well known residents of Washington township, was a well grown lad when he came here with his parents back in pioneer days and he worked here as a farm hand until after his marriage, when he bought a farm of fifty-five acres in the woods west of the creek in the southeast quarter of section 21 of Washington township and started in to clear that place and make a farm out of it. He later added to his holdings until he had a well improved farm of seventy-five acres and on that place spent his last days, his death occurring on August 13, 1921, he then being three days past eighty-eight years of age. To him and his wife were born eight children, four of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Anna, and two brothers, Louis and Ernst. Reared on the home farm in Washington township, Herman H. Hoge received his schooling in the local schools and as a young man took up the carpenter trade and became a proficient builder. For twelve years Mr. Hoge was thus engaged and during the latter three years of this period had a building crew of his own, becoming a well recognized contractor in that neighborhood, having established his home at New Knoxville after his marriage when twenty-three years of age. He then, in 1904, bought the plant of the New Knoxville Hoop Company, converted the same into a saw mill and started on his career as a general lumberman. This old plant occupied the site now covered by the plant of the Auglaize Tile Company and he continued in business at that point for some years, or until he bought the tract of land on which his present modern and extensive lumber mill and yards are now located, erected there a new and up-to-date plant and has since been engaged in business at that point, and has done well. Mr. Hoge carries on a general lumber milling business, with particular reference to the demand for timber for heavy construction work, bridge timbers, railroad ties and

HERMAN H. HOGE AND FAMILY

the like, but also does an extensive business in building lumber, crating lumber and similar lighter forms, as well as such custom sawing as is called for in the neighborhood. In connection with this enterprise he also has a well stocked general lumber yard and carries with this a full stock of general building material, thus being in a position to meet all local demands along that line. Mr. Hoge has long been an active factor in the general development of his home town and has rendered considerable public-spirited service in the community. He is a Republican, served for some time as a member of the village council and also served for five years as a member of the village school board. It was on March 9, 1893, that Herman H. Hoge was united in marriage to Mary Oelrich, who was born on May 24, 1871, daughter of Henry and Mary (Peterjohann) Oelrich, and who also is a member of one of the pioneer families of Washington township, and to this union have been born fourteen children, all of whom are living save three (Oscar, Albert and William, who died in childhood), the others being Laura, Arthur, Gustave, Rebecca, Marcella, Bertha, Esther, Joel, Olga, Ella and Oliver. The Hoges have a very pleasant home at New Knoxville. Mr. and Mrs. Hoge are members of the First Reformed church and have long taken an interested part in the general activities of that flourishing congregation, Mr. Hoge having served for nine years as a member of the board of trustees of the church and also for some time as a director of the church.

GRANVILLE H. CLARK, a former teacher in the schools of this county and one of the well known and substantial farmers and landowners of Auglaize county, proprietor of a well improved farm and a beautiful modern home along the St. Marys-Wapakoneta highway just west of Moulton, his land lying in both Washington and Moulton townships, was born in the latter township and has been a resident of this county all his life. Mr. Clark was born on April 26, 1862, and is a son of Jesse and Lucy (Rogers) Clark, both of whom were members of pioneer families in Delaware county, this state, where they were born and married. Jesse Clark, who was a veteran of the Civil war, was reared to farming in Delaware county and after his marriage in 1847 went to Illinois with the expectation of making his home there. Not satisfied with conditions that far west he returned to Ohio in 1849 and settled in this county, entering from the Government a tract of land in the east half of section 28 and the west half of section 27 of Moulton township, where he established his home in the then woods and where he was living when the Civil war broke out, proprietor of a developing farm of 138 acres. In October, 1864, Jesse Clark entered the service of the Union army as a private in Company I of the 175th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and with this command was sent to the front where he not long afterward was taken prisoner by the enemy and was confined in Libby prison at

Richmond, where he remained until finally exchanged, seriously broken in health, and in June, 1865, the war then being over, received his honorable discharge. Upon the completion of his military service Jesse Clark returned home and tried to resume his old operations on the farm, but his horrid experience in the Rebel pen at Richmond had so far undermined his constitution that he not long afterward was compelled to give up and enter the Government hospital at Columbus, where he died, leaving his widow and nine children, those besides the subject of this sketch—the seventh in order of birth—having been Emma, Josephine, Rosa, Alice, Wellington, Worthington, Jesse and Gay. Granville H. Clark was but a lad when his father died. His mother kept the home and family together and he completed his schooling in the neighborhood school—district No. 8, at the cross roads just north of the Clark farm—and as a boy began clerking in the general store at Moulton, continuing thus occupied until his marriage at the age of twenty-one, when he began farming, establishing his home on the place on which he is now living, just west of Moulton, and has ever since resided on that place. For two winters (1892-4) Mr. Clark was engaged as a teacher in the schools of that neighborhood, but otherwise has pretty steadily devoted himself to the affairs of the farm, having gradually increased his land holdings until now he is the owner of a fine farm of 328 acres lying in Washington and Moulton townships, his home being situated in the latter township. In 1911 Mr. Clark erected his present handsome and modern brick residence on that farm, this house being recognized as one of the best finished structures between Wapakoneta and St. Marys. Of late years Mr. Clark has been assisted in the management of the farm by his younger son, Clinton Clark, who is carrying on in accordance with modern methods of agriculture. Mr. Clark is a Republican and has ever given a good citizen's attention to local public affairs. During the time of America's participation in the World war he served as chairman of the first Liberty bond "drive" in Moulton township and he also served as treasurer of the Moulton township section of the work of the American Red Cross Society in this county. It was in 1883 that Granville H. Clark was united in marriage to Margaret Miller, who also was born in this county, daughter of Henry and Lena (Rodeheffer) Miller, and to this union two sons have been born, Hugh and Clinton, both of whom adopted chemistry as a profession and after their graduation from the St. Marys high school entered Ohio State University and were graduated from the department of chemistry of that institution, each there receiving his Master degree, after which they entered the University of Pittsburgh and were there granted their Doctor degrees, afterward doing research work in the Mellon Institute. Hugh Clark, the elder of these brothers, now engaged on the chemistry staff of the Aluminum Company of

America, manufacturers of "Everwear" aluminum, married Alma Boehrig and has two children, Jean and Paul. The younger brother, Clinton Clark, married Norma Herzing and has two children, Clinton and Nancy Louise. Upon completing his scholastic work, Clinton Clark was for seven years engaged in laboratory work for the Government, attached to the department carrying on research in behalf of pure food under the direction of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, and was thus engaged until his father's failing health required his return home to take over the management of the farm. The Clark home is situated on rural mail route No. 2 out of Wapakoneta.

IRA L. PRICE, one of the well know and substantial farmers and stockmen of Clay township and proprietor of a well improved place just west of the pleasant village of St. Johns, rural mail route No. 1 out of Wapakoneta, was born in that township and has lived there and in the adjoining township of Union all his life. Mr. Price was born on March 19, 1874, and is a son of Benjamin and Eliza J. (Moore) Price, the latter of whom also was born in Clay township, a member of one of the pioneer families of that part of the county, the Moores having been early settlers of the St. Johns neighborhood. Benjamin Price, a veteran of the Civil war and formerly well known as a harness maker at St. Johns, was born at Westminster, in the neighboring county of Allen, and after his service as a soldier of the Union, became a farmer in Auglaize county and after his marriage established his home on a farm in Clay township and there lived until his retirement and removal to St. Johns, where his last days were spent as a harness maker. To him and his wife were born four children, three of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having two sisters, Jennie M. and Amy A. Reared on the farm in Clay township, Ira L. Price received his schooling in the Lyons district school and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to farming. He did not marry until past thirty years of age and then he began farming on his own account, buying a tract of twenty acres of land in Clay township, eight acres of which he cleared before he sold the place six months later. He then bought the old Morris farm of seventy acres in Union township and moved onto the same, three years later buying an adjoining "forty" there. In 1910 he moved back to Clay township, buying there a farm of ninety acres, to which a couple of years later he added an adjoining tract of fifty-three acres, this with his 110 acres in Union township giving him 253 acres. In 1915 he sold his Union township farm, but retained his Clay township holdings and early in 1917 bought a tract of seventy acres just east of St. Johns from F. A. Runkle. In 1919 he bought the Alfred Rogers farm of eighty-four acres and thus now has 298 acres, all of which is being farmed under his personal direction. Mr. Price has remodeled the buildings on his present home place

and has a very well equipped farm plant. In addition to his general farming he gives considerable attention to the raising of live stock, with particular reference to pure bred Hereford cattle, raised for breeding purposes, and also feeds out about 100 hogs a year. Mr. Price has been the sales manager of the Northwestern Ohio Hereford Breeders' Association ever since this association was organized in 1918. This association has attained the reputation of having been the most successful organization of its kind in the United States, in the matter of quality cattle and prices secured at its sales. These sales are held at the fair ground at Wapakoneta annually and in 1920 the sale held there reached a new record for Hereford association sales held in this country. Mr. Price also annually, in June, holds sales of his Herefords and has done much to promote the breeding of Hereford stock hereabout. It was on May 4, 1905, that Ira L. Price was united in marriage to Ethel Brackney, also a member of one of the pioneer families in Clay township, and to this union two children have been born, Ruth Irene, born on September 25, 1914, and one who died in infancy. Mrs. Price, who completed her schooling by attendance for two years at Ohio Northern University at Ada, is a daughter of Reuben and Samantha (Lusk) Brackney, both members of old families in Clay township, as is set out elsewhere. Mr. and Mrs. Price are Republicans and Mr. Price is a member of the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (No. 660) at St. Johns.

WILLIAM FREYMAN, a well known and substantial bachelor farmer of Duchouquet township, living on his well kept place just southeast of Wapakoneta, is a member of one of the real pioneer families of this county, his grandfather, John M. Freyman, a Bavarian, having settled here in 1833, the year following the departure of the Indians from their old reservation lands here. John M. Freyman was born in the kingdom of Bavaria and in 1828 came to this country with his wife and the children that then had been born to them and for awhile thereafter made his home in Pennsylvania. Not long afterward, however, he came over into Ohio and settled in Butler county, where he remained until the Wapakoneta Indian reservation lands here were opened for settlement in 1832, when he came up here and entered from the Government an "eighty" in the southeast quarter of section 33 of Duchouquet township, less than a mile southeast of the village of Wapakoneta, and in the next year brought his family here and established his home on that place, where he spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1863. His widow survived him for six years, her death occurring in 1869. Andrew Freyman, one of the sons of this pioneer couple, and father of the subject of this sketch, was ten years of age when he came with his parents from Bavaria in 1828 and was fifteen years of age when the

family settled in the Wapakoneta neighborhood in 1833, the year after the Indians had departed for their new lands in the West. On that pioneer farm there in the Quaker Run valley he grew to manhood and after his marriage established his home on the place, which after the death of his parents he came into by inheritance. His wife, who was Salina Fetter, a member of one of the pioneer families here, also had a "forty," which he farmed as well as his own "eighty," and besides these tracts he bought a farm of fifty-five acres in Pusheta township, to the operation of which he likewise gave his personal attention, and as his affairs prospered added to his holdings until the home place comprised 160 acres and was regarded as one of the best improved farms in that neighborhood. There Andrew Freyman spent his last days, his death occurring in 1902, he then being eighty-four years of age. To him and his wife were born thirteen children, six of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Mary, Caroline and Barbara, and two brothers, Michael and Alexander Freyman. The deceased children of this family were one who died in infancy, John, John (II), Andrew, Charles, Anna and Elizabeth. William Freyman, son of Andrew and Salina (Fetter) Freyman, was born on the old Freyman farm on January 4, 1866, and has lived there all his life. He received his schooling at Wapakoneta and from the days of his boyhood has been devoted to the affairs of the farm. Following the death of his parents he bought the home place of 160 acres and has continued to farm the place, also operating a good farm of 116 acres in Pusheta township. In addition to his general farming Mr. Freyman has long given considerable attention to the raising of live stock and has done well in his operations. He has a pleasant home on rural route No. 1 out of Wapakoneta. He is a member of the Evangelical church, is a Republican and is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta.

ELMER HULBERT YOUNGS, a member of the board of county commissioners for Auglaize county and a substantial farmer and landowner of St. Marys township, proprietor of a well improved farm on the St. Marys-New Bremen highway (rural mail route No. 4 out of New Bremen), where he makes his home, one of the best known men in this county, is a native son of Auglaize county, a member of one of the pioneer families here, and has been a resident of this county all his life. Mr. Youngs was born on a farm on the eastern edge of St. Marys township, about two miles southeast of St. Marys, July 8, 1866, and is a son of Joseph and Jerusha (Doute) Youngs, the latter of whom was a member of the pioneer Doute family which was so prominent in the early affairs of the St. Marys settlement. As a young man Joseph Youngs became engaged in the harness and saddlery business at St. Marys and was thus engaged for some time, or until

he bought a farm over east of town and there established his home, becoming, in time, one of the substantial landowners of that part of the county, the owner of a tract of 220 acres lying in St. Marys and Washington townships. On that place he spent his last days, his death occurring in 1881. He and his wife were members of the Carter Creek United Brethren church and their children were reared in that faith. There were four of these children, the subject of this sketch having had three brothers, Martin, James and Friedus Youngs, all now deceased. James Youngs was born on August 26, 1851, and died on February 11, 1921. For many years he was engaged in the livery business at Wapakoneta. In 1900 he married Alice Pratt and to him and his wife were born three sons, Roy, Ray and Jay. Friedus Youngs, who died on January 15, 1916, made his home on the old Youngs home place in St. Marys township. He married Mary Barrington, of that township, and had seven children, Bess, Kate, Harvey, Alice, Gail, Ferd and Corinne. Reared on the home farm in St. Marys township, Elmer H. Youngs completed his schooling in the schools at St. Marys and from the days of his boyhood was well trained in the ways of farming. He married at the age of twenty-two years and for some time thereafter was variously engaged at St. Marys, presently becoming engaged in the wholesale liquor business, and was thus engaged until 1908, when he bought his present farm of 105 acres on the St. Marys-New Bremen road (the old Wayne trail), about three miles south of St. Marys, and there established his home and has since been engaged in farming, having developed there one of the best farm plants in that part of the county. Mr. Youngs is an ardent Republican and has long been looked upon as one of the leaders of that party in this county. In the campaign of 1920 he was nominated as the candidate for county commissioner from his district and in the November election of that year was elected and is now serving as a member of the board of county commissioners, his term of service to run to December, 1925. It was in 1888 that Elmer H. Youngs was united in marriage to Lulu Hawkey, of St. Marys, also a member of one of the pioneer families of this county, a daughter of Lloyd Hawkey, and to this union two children have been born, sons both, Elmer and Mont, the latter of whom married Paula Laut, a daughter of Henry Laut, of New Bremen, and has four children, Margaret, Catherine, Rosemary and Carol. The junior Elmer Youngs married Mary White, of St. Marys, and has three children, John, Catherine and William. The Youngs attend the Methodist Episcopal church at St. Marys.

CLARENCE E. WANAMAKER, former ticket agent for the Western Ohio Electric Railway Company at Wapakoneta and later engaged in the restaurant business in that city, proprietor of a lunch room on Blackhoof street, who died in that city on February 26,

1923, after a brief illness, was born at Wapakoneta on May 25, 1889, and was a son of Oscar and Flora (Hipp) Wanamaker, the latter of whom was born at St. Marys, this county, and who are now living at Royal Oak, Mich. Oscar Wanamaker was born at Albany, Ind., and when about seventeen years of age moved to Ottoville, Ohio. Some years later he moved to St. Marys, where he became employed in the Nietert & Koop mill and continued with that concern until he learned the milling business. He married at St. Marys and about 1886 moved to Wapakoneta, where he became engaged in the Stenger mill, and here he remained for twenty years or more, ten years of which time he served as chief of police for the city of Wapakoneta. In 1907 he moved to Madison, Wis., where he became engaged in construction work, and there he remained until 1918, when he moved to Royal Oak, Mich., where he and his wife are now living, he being employed in the works of the Ford Motor Company of Detroit. To Oscar Wanamaker and wife two sons were born, the subject of this memorial sketch having had a brother, Gilbert, who died in early childhood. Reared at Wapakoneta, where he was born, the late Clarence E. Wanamaker received his schooling in the schools of that city, and early learned the barber trade, a vocation he followed at Wapakoneta for five years, at the end of which time he went to Dayton and there became employed in the plant of the National Cash Register Company, later transferring his connection to the plant of the Mercantile Corporation, manufacturers of stamped envelopes for the Government, and remained there for some years, during which time he was married in that city. In 1910 Mr. Wanamaker returned to Wapakoneta and became employed there as the local ticket agent for the Western Ohio Electric Railway Company, a position he occupied for five years, at the end of which time he built a small building just south of and adjoining the traction station and opened in the same a confectionery shop. This establishment he continued to operate for five years and then, on September 1, 1920, bought the restaurant he continued to operate until his death, and had been quite successful in that business. Upon taking over that business Mr. Wanamaker remodeled the place and had an up-to-date and attractive lunch room, serving both "short orders" and regular meals, and built up an excellent trade. Mr. Wanamaker was a Democrat and in 1917 was a candidate for the office of city auditor. He was a member of the local lodges of the Freemasons, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Fraternal Order of Eagles and was affiliated with the local Swabian Society. He was a member of St. Paul's Evangelical church as is his widow. It was on September 12, 1910, while living at Dayton, that Clarence E. Wanamaker was united in marriage to Trela Fletcher, of that city, and to this union two sons were born, Leslie, born on February

26, 1914, and Donald E., August 1, 1920. Mrs. Wanamaker was born at Chillicothe, Ohio, December 14, 1890, and is the daughter of Pressley and Nora (Uhrig) Fletcher, both of whom also were born in that city. When eleven years of age she moved with her parents to Dayton, where she completed her schooling and where her parents still are living, her father being a machinist there. Mrs. Wanamaker has a brother, Karl Fletcher.

CARL DANIEL FISCHER, who in his generation was one of the most influential factors in the development of the commercial and industrial activities of the city of Wapakoneta and who died at his home in Terre Haute, Ind., in 1921, was a native of Germany, born on June 19, 1855, at Elben-by-Naumberg-Kreis, Wolfhagen-Castle, where his youth was spent and where he received excellent schooling. When eighteen years of age he came to America and joined his elder brother, Ditmar Fischer, who had preceded him to this country some years before and who had become engaged in the retail grocery business at Wapakoneta. Carl Daniel Fischer arrived at Wapakoneta in 1873, just at a time when the village was beginning to emerge from its pioneer state, and it was not long until the impress of his personality was beginning to be felt in the development work then going on. He became associated with his brother Ditmar in the grocery business, this position giving him an excellent opportunity to extend his acquaintance throughout the community, and he thus became one of the best known young men hereabout, an asset which became invaluable to him in the years to come. Five years after his arrival here he married, and for some years thereafter continued engaged in the grocery business, to which a pork-packing department had been added. Attracted by reports from Florida and the promise of possibilities there awaiting newcomers in that field, he moved to that state, where he became engaged in the grocery business, but not finding things there to his liking he presently returned to Wapakoneta and took over his brother's grocery store, entering into a partnership with the senior Charles F. Herbst. Not long afterward he and Mr. Herbst organized the Wapakoneta Spoke and Bending Company, which eventually became merged into the present wheel works at St. Marys, and upon severing his connection with that concern became interested in the management of the Wapakoneta Wheel Company, was elected secretary and manager of the same and presently was made president of the company, a position he occupied for twenty-five years or until the time of its reorganization and his removal to Terre Haute, Ind., where he became president of the Standard Wheel Company, extended his manufacturing interests and spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring there in 1921. It was in that city that he also established the Standard Machine Company and the Standard Malleable Castings Company, which were carried to their present successful

CARL DANIEL FISCHER

development under his direction. In 1891, prior to his removal to Terre Haute Mr. Fischer had organized a company and established a factory adjacent to the wheel works at Wapakoneta for the manufacture of machinery, machine knives and tools, which plant, known as the Wapakoneta Machine Company, is today one of the best known establishments of its kind in the country and a valuable industry in this county. Mr. Fischer continued as president of this concern until his death, though since 1904 the active management of the plant had been in the hands of his son, Carl Ditmar Fischer, present president and general manager of the concern, as is set out elsewhere in this work. Without thought of creating invidious distinctions, it properly enough may be said that the late Carl Daniel Fischer was perhaps one of the most vital personal forces in industrial development in this community. His efforts in Wapakoneta's behalf bore fruit, several of the enterprising manufacturing industries of that city having been secured through the direction of his initiative while serving years ago as president of the local Chamber of Commerce, these including the Wapakoneta Hollow Ware Company, the Krein Chain Company and some others, the period of his service in this behalf marking Wapakoneta's greatest industrial expansion. Mr. Fischer was a Scottish Rite (32°) Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. During the terms for 1896-1901 he was the worshipful master of Homer lodge No. 167, Free and Accepted Masons, at Wapakoneta, his term of service in that connection having been the second longest of any individual in the seventy-five years of the lodge's history. He also was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. Mr. Fischer was twice married. It was on August 15, 1878, that he was united in marriage to Louise Upmeyer, of Wapakoneta, and to that union were born four children, two daughters, Margaret and Amelia, both of whom now are deceased, and two sons, Carl Ditmar Fischer, concerning whom further and fitting mention is made elsewhere in this work, and Emil J. Fischer, now living at Terre Haute and who succeeded his father as president of the Standard Wheel Company of that city. Mrs. Louise Fischer died in July, 1892, and in 1902 Mr. Fischer married Daisy Lucas, who bore him two sons, Hans and Lucas Fischer, now residing at Terre Haute.

ERNEST J. ROGERS, a veteran of the World war and one of the most progressive young farmers and stockmen in Auglaize county, operator of the old Rogers farm at St. Johns, successor in these operations to his father, the late John Rogers, was born on that farm, there on the edge of the pleasant village of St. Johns, in Clay township, the site of the old Blackhoof Indian village, and has lived there all his life. Mr. Rogers was born on March 15, 1894, and is a son of John and Hannah (Bitler) Rogers, both of whom also were

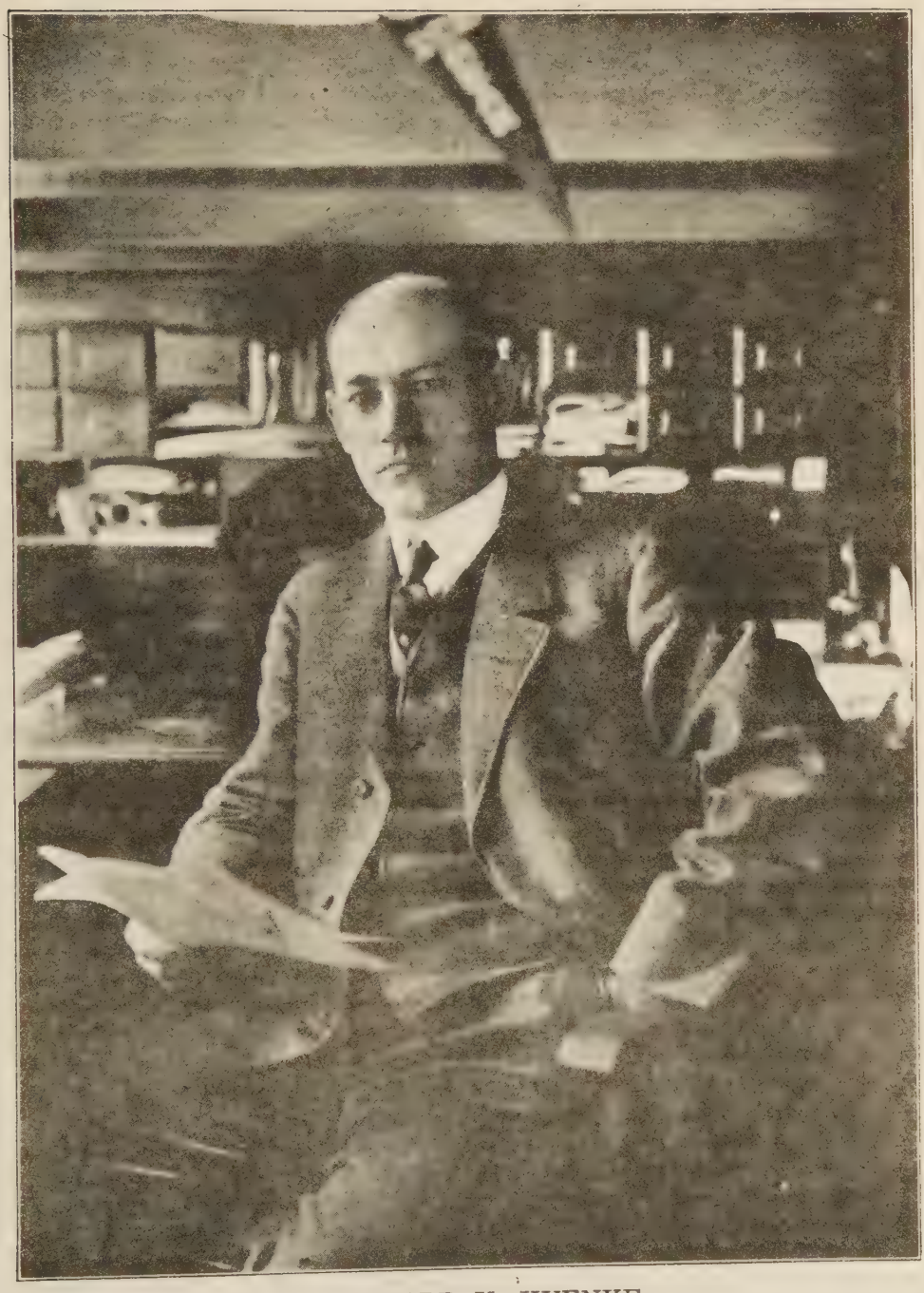
born and reared in that same vicinity, members of real pioneer families there, son and daughter, respectively, of the founders of the village of St. Johns. It will be recalled that it was John Rogers—the senior John Rogers, the pioneer—who settled there in the northwest quarter of section 5 of Clay township in 1833, the year following the departure of the Indians, and that Daniel Bitler settled on an adjoining tract in the following year and opened on his land a store and a blacksmith shop, thus providing the nucleus for the later growth of the village which was platted by the joint owners of the site (Bitler and Rogers) in 1835. John Rogers was a New Yorker by birth but had come to Ohio with his parents when he was fourteen years of age, the family settling in Richland county, where he grew to manhood and was married. In 1833 he entered from the Government the tract above referred to, which then was a part of Union township, Allen county, and when in the next year (1834) Clay township was erected he was a judge of the first election held in that township and was elected township trustee. He afterward also served for many years as justice of the peace and in other ways was a useful and influential public servant in the days of the beginning of that community, he and his wife Mary having been among the leading factors in the development of proper social conditions thereabout. This pioneer was eighty years of age at the time of his death in 1880. The junior John Rogers, a son of these pioneers and father of the subject of this sketch, grew to manhood on that farm there at St. Johns and after his marriage to his neighbor, Hannah Bitler, established his home there and became a farmer by his own right, eventually becoming the owner of a fine farm of 320 acres, a part of which extended over the line in Union township, and early became recognized as one of the leading livestock men in the county, particularly as a promoter of the breeding of big type Poland-China hogs. On that place he spent his last days, his death occurring on January 26, 1918, and his widow still survives him. To them were born six children, all of whom are living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Rae, Grace and Nelle, and two brothers, Guy and George W. Rogers. Reared on the old home place at St. Johns, Ernest J. Rogers received his early schooling in the village schools there, supplementing this by attendance on the Wapakoneta high school, from which he was graduated in 1911, and then he took a course of one year at Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware. He then returned to the farm and continued active there in the operations his father was carrying on and after his father's death in 1918 assumed direction of affairs on the farm and has since been in charge. During the time of America's participation in the World war Mr. Rogers rendered service, serving in the field artillery from July 24, 1918, to the time of his discharge on January 5, 1919, the war then

being over. Since taking charge of the operations of the home farm Mr. Rogers has extended these operations, giving his particular attention to the raising of live stock, and feeds out about 200 hogs a year. He also has 400 or more Merino sheep. On September 14, 1922, Ernest J. Rogers was united in marriage to Elizabeth K. Meyer, who was born at Wapakoneta on September 25, 1895, daughter of William H. and Minnie (Smith) Meyer, and who was graduated from the Wapakoneta high school in 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Rogers have a very pleasant home at St. Johns and take an interested part in the general social activities of that community. Mr. Rogers is a member of Auglaize post, No. 330, American Legion, at Wapakoneta, and is a member of the college fraternity Phi Gamma Delta.

CARL F. WERNER, junior member of the firm of Jacob Werner & Son, beef and pork packers and shippers of live stock at Wapakoneta, was born at Wapakoneta on September 30, 1896, and is a son of Jacob and Lura (Herbst) Werner, the latter of whom is a member of one of the old families in this county, a daughter of Alois and Amelia Herbst. Jacob Werner was born at Leichtenan, Baden, Germany, December 3, 1872, and in his native country learned something of the butcher trade. When seventeen years of age he came to this country and for a time worked as a farm hand in the Anna neighborhood in Shelby county, Ohio. He then located at Wapakoneta and there became employed in the Schilling meat market, continuing thus engaged until in 1894, when he formed a partnership with George Bridenweiser. Later he became a partner of Harry Kah in the meat business and this connection continued until in 1916, when the present firm of Werner & Son was established. To Jacob and Lura (Herbst) Werner six children have been born, those besides the subject of this sketch being Frank, Norma, Howard, Florence and John. Frank Werner married Bonnie Sibert and has one child, a son, Joseph. The Werners are members of the German Lutheran church. Jacob Werner is a member of the Swabian Society and is also affiliated with the Odd Fellows, the Elks and the Eagles. Reared at Wapakoneta, Carl F. Werner was graduated from the high school there in 1914 and then spent a year pursuing a business course in the Lima Business College. In his father's meat market at Wapakoneta he had obtained a pretty good general knowledge of the details of the retail meat business and upon leaving college he entered the employ of Buehler Bros., retail meat dealers at Lima, and was for eight months engaged there as a meat cutter, thus extending his experience along that line. He then spent eight months in the employ of J. Boyd Douglas in Lima, furthering his practical experience, and then returned home and entered into a partnership with his father, Jacob Werner, a retail meat dealer of years of experience at Wapakoneta, who had bought from his partner, Harry Kah, the

latter's interest in the business there, the new concern being incorporated in 1919 under the firm style of Jacob Werner & Son. This new concern straightway began to enlarge its plant and the scope of its trade area and now has the largest packing plant in Auglaize county, killing weekly about 100 hogs, twenty-five cattle and all the calves that can be obtained. Included in the mechanical equipment of the Werner plant are two coolers of ample dimensions, a ten-ton ammonia refrigerating plant, three motor trucks, a fifteen-horsepower electric motor and a gasoline engine, and in addition to the retail establishment maintained at Wapakoneta also maintains retail branches at Lima, Celina and St. Marys, thus providing a wide outlet for the products of the pcking plant, which in the few years of its development has come to be recognized as one of the important industries of the town. On April 4, 1917, Carl F. Werner was united in marriage to Cecile Miller, who also was born in Wapakoneta, daughter and only child of Ora J. and May (Hardesty) Miller, and who was graduated from the Wapakoneta high school in 1915. Mrs. Werner's father, the late Ora J. Miller, a motorman in the employ of the Western Ohio Electric Railroad Company, met his death in a collision on that road in 1904 and in 1916 his widow married Frank Budde, who is now employed in the establishment of Werner & Son. Carl F. Werner, who is recognized as one of the enterprising and public spirited young men of his home town, is a member of the Wapakoneta Commercial Club and of the Kiwanis Club and is also affiliated with the local lodges of the Freemasons, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Loyal Order of Moose and the Fraternal Order of Eagles and with the local Swabian Society.

CLIFFORD V. HUENKE, mayor of New Bremen, vice president and general manager of the White Mountain Creamery Company, president of the Allied Dairy Products Association of Ohio, former secretary of the Ohio Creamery Butter Manufacturers Association, president of the Auglaize Furniture Company of New Bremen, vice president of the First National Bank of that city and a member of the directorate of the First City Bank and in other ways actively interested in the civic and industrial affairs of the community, is a native son of Auglaize county and has lived here all his life. Mr. Huenke was born in September, 1882, son of Louis and Emma (Wulfeck) Huenke, and was reared at New Bremen. He was graduated from the local high school in 1901 and then took a commercial course under A. D. Wilt at the Miami Commercial School at Dayton, following this by a course in agriculture in Ohio State University, where he specialized in dairying with a view to the practical application of this course of instruction in the operation of the great dairy interests that were being developed by his father in his home town. Thus equipped, in 1904 he was placed in technical charge of the creamery at New



CLIFFORD V. HUENKE

Bremen and when (after the plant at St. Marys was established), the White Mountain Creamery Company was incorporated, he was elected vice president and general manager of the same and has since occupied that position. In the exercise of his duties in that behalf he has done wonders in the way of developing the resources and extending the products of this widely known company. In the meantime he had taken a special course in butter making in the well equipped agricultural department of Iowa State College at Ames and had thus expanded his capacity for bringing to bear every accepted utility of modern dairying science in the operation of the White Mountain industries. As the demands upon the company's products grew it became necessary to widen their field of activity and consequently branches were established at Lima and at Ottawa, these being operated by the subsidiary company, the White Mountain Dairy Company, of which Mr. Huenke also is the vice president and general manager; and in 1910 the big corporation began the manufacture of ice cream, a unit of the business that has grown until now it is turning out 300,000 gallons of ice cream annually. In 1921 the company plants turned out 4,250,000 pounds of butter. In addition to the great parent plant at New Bremen, this company maintains an admirably equipped experimental farm on the place and is constantly seeking to improve the quality of its products. The New Bremen plant was erected in 1908 and has a capacity of 20,000 pounds of butter a day. Further details regarding the inception and development of this important industry are set out in the biography relating to Louis Huenke, president of the White Mountain Creamery Company and father of the subject of this sketch, carried elsewhere in this volume, and to which the attention of the reader is directed in this connection. Clifford Huenke has come to be recognized as one of the leading dairy men and butter manufacturers in the country and has rendered valuable service in his fight against dairy substitutes, such as oleomargarine and the like, and has conscientiously and consistently sought to develop the interests of farm dairy products generally. For five years he served as a member of the executive committee of the American Creamery Butter Manufacturers Association, to which he has been re-elected for two years, was one of the organizers and for six years was the secretary of the Ohio Creamery Butter Manufacturers Association, is now the president of the Allied Dairy Products Association of Ohio and is also president of the Ohio Creamery Butter Manufacturers Association. He is a Republican and for the past seven years has been retained by successive re-elections in the office of mayor of New Bremen, his executive and administrative capacity having thus been attested by the people of that town. During the period of America's participation in the World war, Mr. Huenke served as vice chairman of the Western Auglaize chapter of the

American Red Cross, was chairman of the War Chest committee for this district, was at the head of several of the Liberty Loan "drives" in that part of the county and was also Ohio's representative of the dairy interests in the food conservation movement under Herbert Hoover, Federal food administrator. As noted above, he is also the president of the Auglaize Furniture Company of New Bremen and is a member of the boards of directors of both the First National Bank and of the First City Bank of New Bremen and vice president of the former. He is affiliated with the local lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at New Bremen and with the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta. Mr. Huenke married Martha Diecker, daughter of William and Louise Diecker, and he and his wife have a very pleasant home at New Bremen.

A. MERCHANT FINLEY, a member of the Clay township school board and proprietor of a well improved farm in the eastern part of that township, was born in Clay township and has lived there all his life. Mr. Finley was born on a farm in the west half of section 13 on April 6, 1869, and is a son of John M. and Elizabeth (Mitchell) Finley, both of whom also were born in Ohio. The late John M. Finley was born in Union county, and as a young man came to Auglaize county, settling in Clay township. After his marriage he began farming on his own account and became the owner of an excellent farm of 120 acres, on which his last days were spent. He and his wife were the parents of six children, all of whom are living save one son, Elmer, who died at the age of eighteen months, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Flora, Minnie and Mary, and a brother, William Finley. Reared on the farm on which he was born, A. Merchant Finley received his schooling in the nearby Dobie school (district No. 4) and was early trained to the ways of farming. He remained at home, a valued assistant in the operations of the home farm, until his marriage at the age of twenty-six years, when he began farming for himself, renting fields from his father, and was thus engaged for seven years, at the end of which time he bought his present farm of 120 acres and has since carried out an extensive program of development on that place, including the erection of a new set of buildings and a dwelling house equipped with running water and an electric light plant and the modern conveniences which go with such an equipment, and is thus regarded as having one of the best farm plants in that neighborhood. In addition to this farm, Mr. Finley is farming a tract of seventy acres which was inherited by his wife, being assisted in his operations by his son Lester, the operations of the two thus covering 190 acres. Mr. Finley is a Republican and has ever given a good citizens's attention to local civic affairs, at present serving as a member of the local school board. He is a past noble grand of the local lodge (No. 660) of the Inde-

pendent Order of Odd Fellows at St. Johns. It was on July 7, 1895, that A. Merchant Finley was united in marriage to Mary Martin, also of Clay township, and to this union have been born four children, all of whom are living save one daughter, Ivy, who died in infancy, the others being Lester, Gladys and Edith, the two latter of whom are still in school, attending the Dobie school. Lester Finley, as noted above, is assisting his father in the operations of the farm. Mrs. Mary Finley was born in Clay township and is a daughter of John and Martha (Powell) Martin. She has a sister, Zurah, and a brother, Edward Martin. The Finley home is very pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Johns.

HUGH GROSS, a former trustee of Union township and a well known farmer of that township, residing on his pleasant place about two miles and a half northeast of Uniopolis, was born on that farm there in the valley of Virginia creek and is attached to the place by many warm ties of sentimental association. Mr. Gross was born on September 27, 1867, and is a son of Daniel and Lydia (Hardin) Gross, the latter a member of one of the pioneer families of Union township and who are now living retired at Waynesfield. Daniel Gross, a veteran of the Civil war, was born at Wapakoneta and is a son of John and Elizabeth Gross, who had come here from the grand duchy of Baden and had settled at Wapakoneta in the days when the county seat was little more than a straggling village there at the site of the old Indian town. John Gross was a brewer by vocation and upon locating at Wapakoneta became engaged in the brewing business, a vocation he followed for some years or until the lure of the West attracted him and he moved to Wisconsin, where he bought a farm and spent the remainder of his life. Daniel Gross grew up in this county and was living here when the Civil war broke out. Upon the organization of the 37th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, he enlisted his services in behalf of the cause of the Union and went to the front with that gallant command, his service with the 37th covering a period of three years and five days, during which time he participated in no fewer than twenty-seven engagements with the enemy. Upon the completion of his military service Mr. Gross returned home and not long thereafter was married and established his home on an "eighty" owned by his wife in Union township, a part of the old Hardin farm there in the northeast quarter of section 16, and there continued engaged in farming until his retirement in 1919 and removal to Waynesfield, where he and his wife are now living. To them have been born twelve children, all of whom are living save three, Joseph, Jacob and Eva L., the survivors (besides the subject of this sketch) being Ida M., John W., Sarah, Charles P., Mark, Marion D., Millie and Nettie M. Reared on the farm where he was born and where he is now living, Hugh Gross received his schooling in the neighbor-

hood schools and as a young man became engaged in working in the oil fields throughout this section of Ohio. For twelve years he continued thus engaged and then he took employment as a railway bridge carpenter and for five years thereafter was engaged in that vocation, much of this time being spent on construction work in the South, and it was while thus engaged that he married. In 1908 Mr. Gross returned to Auglaize county and bought a tract of something more than forty-nine acres in Union township and settled down to farming. He made his home on that place until his father's retirement from the old home farm in 1919, when he took charge of this latter place, renting the farm from his father, and has since been living there. Mr. Gross is a Democrat and for two terms served as a member of the board of trustees for Union township. He and his wife are members of the Christian Union church. It was in September, 1889, at Huntsville, Ala., that Hugh Gross was united in marriage to Vera L. Erwin, who was born in that city, daughter of James Alfred Erwin, and to this union two daughters have been born, Effie and Ida, the latter of whom is the wife of John W. Webb. Effie Gross married Harvey B. Frazier and has three children, Lucille, Coral E. and Isabel. The Gross home is pleasantly situated on rural mail route No. 1 out of Uniopolis.

JOSEPH MORTON HOWELL, M. D., the first envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States to Egypt and who is now thus serving in the Legation of the United States at Cairo, is a native son of Auglaize county and has ever retained a hearty interest in all that pertains to his native county, with particular reference to the interests centering in and about the Waynesfield and Uniopolis neighborhoods, where the preparatory years of his useful career were spent. Doctor Howell was born at Uniopolis on March 17, 1863, and is a son of Joseph Giles and Jane (Miller) Howell, both of whom were members of pioneer families in that section of the county, the latter a member of the famous Miller family reared at Uniopolis, of which family there were seven sons and two daughters. Five of these sons became regularly ordained ministers of the gospel and became distinguished in the communions of their respective affiliations. The other two sons were farmers of whom it has been said that they "were noted for their piety, splendid citizenship and high sense of honor." Mrs. Jane Miller Howell, mother of the Doctor, has been referred to as "a woman of great piety and amiability, unassuming in manner and universally loved by all with whom she came in contact." Those who recall those days say that it was her wont during "protracted meetings" to rise in her pew and give religious talks "burning with such zeal and accompanied by such masterly logic and pathos as to melt the entire audience to tears." Joseph Giles Howell, father of the Doctor, has been referred to as a man of

DR. J. MORTON HOWELL

many facets. Born and reared as he was amid pioneer conditions in Union township, his educational advantages necessarily were limited, but by dint of hard work and perseverance he acquired much more than ordinary education. He possessed an analytical mind and early turned to the study of theology, displaying therein his talents in a quite remarkable manner as a local preacher in the Methodist church. He was an ardent Republican. Religiously opposed to the sale of intoxicating liquors, he was an active foe of the saloon and it is narrated that though many attempts were made to establish a saloon in Waynesfield while he lived on his farm adjacent thereto he was invariably successful in thwarting the accomplishment of such a design. Doctor Howell received his early schooling in the schools of Waynesfield and for three winters was engaged as a teacher in the district schools of this county. He then entered Ohio Northern University at Ada and received from that institution the degree of Master of Arts. Meanwhile he had been giving his serious attention to the study of medicine and under the preceptorship of Dr. Henry L. Mann at Wapakoneta was prepared for entrance in the medical department of the Ohio State University (Starling Medical College), from which institution he was graduated on March 4, 1885, the youngest man up to that time ever graduated from the institution. In June, 1922, Otterbein University conferred upon him the degree of LL.D. Upon receiving his diploma Doctor Howell located at Washington C. H., where he practiced his profession until a little more than twenty-five years ago, when he moved to Dayton and began to specialize in surgery, becoming very successful. For years Doctor Howell has been especially interested in political economy and has made first-hand studies along this line during his extensive travels, these travels having taken him into every country on the globe. As a continuing student of medicine and surgery and while he was in the active practice of his profession he took advantage of the best seats of learning in both Europe and America. He has been a liberal contributor to medical journals and is also the author of an interesting literary production detailing incidents of a Mediterranean cruise and a side trip across Europe. Doctor Howell was made the president of the first local board of health at Dayton in 1910 and while serving in that capacity placed Dayton in high rank in the matter of sanitation and hygiene. Through the legislative function of this board the Doctor was the author of numerous of the state laws now operating in the control of matters of a hygienic character, one of the most important of these being the milk bottling law, of which he was the author, and which precipitated a fight in which the validity of his law was sustained by the court. Later, at the request of Governor Willis, he became a member of the state board of health and in this capacity introduced and had passed measures along sanitary lines which have

benefited the whole commonwealth. Almost continuously for the past twenty years and until he severed his connection as such official shortly before leaving for his new post in the diplomatic field, the Doctor has been president of the board of United States examining surgeons of the National Military Home at Dayton. On two occasions he was selected by the Governor to represent Ohio at the National Medical Congress, and it is interesting to note that it was he who made the last speech and cast the deciding vote which gave to the United States a national board of medical examiners. He has occupied prominent places in both the state and national medical societies, was one of the founders of the national association for the study and prevention of infant mortality and served continuously as a member of the board of directors of that body until just before he left to enter upon his diplomatic mission in Egypt. During the time of this country's participation in the World war the Doctor served as a medical examiner in the Government's behalf, with particular reference to indigent war claims. It was on October 7, 1921, that Doctor Howell received from President Harding his appointment as diplomatic agent and consul general of the United States to Egypt. When a change of governmental status was brought about in that country, whereby Egypt became an independent and sovereign state, the President appointed the Doctor the first envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary from this country to the new court. In this connection, it is proper to state that this appointment received the unanimous indorsement of the twenty-three members of the Ohio delegation in Congress at a caucus held in Washington. Doctor Howell's address delivered before the King of Egypt on the occasion of presenting to the court his letter of credence attracted international recognition and was regarded as a "master stroke" of modern diplomacy. The Doctor is a Republican, a Freemason and an Odd Fellow, is a present member of the Mohamed Ali Club, the elite social club of Cairo, and he and his entire family are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. On April 10, 1884, at Catawba, Ohio, Dr. Joseph Morton Howell was united in marriage to Eva Flood, daughter of the Rev. Jonathan Mercer and Emily (Smith) Flood, of that place, and to this union two children have been born, a daughter, Lorena Caroline, who married Robert H. Turner, of Dayton, and a son, Frederick Morton Howell, who married Elizabeth St. Clair, of Jacksonville, Fla. Mrs. Howell's maternal grandfather Smith served seventeen continuous terms in the Ohio state Legislature, which term of service is believed to constitute the record for continuous service as a legislator in America. Her father, the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Mercer Flood, was long recognized as one of Ohio's greatest pulpit orators, and not a few of the older residents of Auglaize county will recall his famous debate with the distinguished Doctor Summerbell on "The Trinity," Doctor Flood taking the affirmative in the debate, which

later was presented in book form, some of these books no doubt still being preserved in some of the older private libraries of this county.

JOSEPH GERHARD PLATVOET, the veteran mail messenger and former proprietor of the city transfer line at Wapakoneta, who died at his home in that city in the fall of 1921, was "widely known for his diligence and for his painstaking devotion to his work," as a local newspaper put it at the time of his death. "One of the chief attributes of Mr. Platvoet's life may be summed up in one word, promptness," continued this newspaper's appreciation of the deceased's life and services to the community. "He was the local mail messenger for ten years and delivered mail to fifteen trains a day. This work demanded his services at many different times throughout the day and night. There is a penalty exacted by the Post-office Department for missing a train with first-class mail, but throughout his many years of service Mr. Platvoet never missed a train or paid penalty a single time. * * * He was a man who could be depended upon and many times his promptness has been the subject of comment and admiration on the part of the local people." Joseph G. Platvoet was born on a farm three miles east of Botkins, in Shelby county, Ohio, June 16, 1863, and was a son of Gerhart and Elizabeth (Frekers) Platvoet, both of whom were of European birth, the former born in Holland and the latter in Prussia, and who were married in Cincinnati, both having come to this country with their respective parents in the days of their youth. Gerhart Platvoet was trained as a cooper in the days of his youth but after his marriage settled on a farm east of Botkins and there he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. They had eight children. Joseph G. Platvoet was reared on that farm east of Botkins and made his home there until he was twenty-one years of age, when he went to Ft. Recovery and was for two years a resident of that place, making his home there with an elder sister. He then located at Wapakoneta, where he became engaged as a drayman and after his marriage at the age of twenty-five established his home in that city, of which he thus at the time of his death had been a resident for thirty-six years. When the Standard Oil Company established a local distributing station at Wapakoneta Mr. Platvoet was engaged as distributor, handling the oil then in barrels, and thus became the first local oil man in the town. He afterward operated the city transfer line and in 1911 was given the contract to handle the mail in transit between the postoffice and the railway stations, a service which he maintained to the end and the faithfulness of which has been commented on above. Mr. Platvoet was a Democrat and for some time represented his ward in the city council. He was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic church, as is his widow, and their children

were reared in that faith. In 1888 Joseph G. Platvoet was married to Mary Nester, of Wapakoneta, and to this union were born seven children, four of whom survive, namely: Mrs. Rosina Sheets, of Botkins; Richard W. Platvoet, of Wapakoneta, and Urban and Margaret, who are at home with their mother. A daughter, Elizabeth, lost her life in a river tragedy some years ago, when a boat capsized in the Auglaize. Two other children died in infancy. Mr. Platvoet died at his home, 104 Harrison street, November 24, 1921, and his widow has continued to make her home in Wapakoneta. She is the sole survivor of the four children born to her parents, Joseph and Rosina (Fisher) Nester, the latter of whom was born at Freyburg, in Pusheta township, this county. Joseph Nester was a native of Germany. He was married at Freyburg and made his home at Wapakoneta, where for years he followed his vocation as a blacksmith.

CARR V. VAN ANDA, managing editor of the New York *Times*, has long been regarded as one of the most interesting figures in the newspaper world. He is among the celebrities of journalism, whose name is familiar to the fraternity on both sides of the Atlantic. Carr V. Van Anda was born in Georgetown, Ohio, December 2, 1864. His father was Frederick C. Van Anda, an attorney by profession and his mother Mariah E. (Davis) Van Anda. Though born in Georgetown, the honor of nurturing him in his formative years must be accorded to Wapakoneta, to which place the family moved on May 5, 1871. Young Van Anda attended the public school of his new home and early evinced a precocious mind, and it was predicted that he would climb high on the ladder of fame. For years his record of scholarship was held as a model to succeeding classes, and few, if any, have ever attained it. He was but fifteen years of age when he was graduated from the Wapakoneta high school. The following year he was privately tutored by Prof. William Hoover, a noted mathematician, and Dr. W. H. Minnich, in preparation for college. He attended Ohio University at Athens, Ohio, in 1880-82 but did not graduate. Mr. Van Anda was born a newspaper man. From his earliest childhood his thoughts were of printing. Even at the early age of six years he established a newspaper, and perhaps a record as the youngest editor. His paper was a double sheet of foolscap upon the four pages of which he pasted clippings of prose and poetry. In the solicitations for subscriptions within the family circle there were intimations of the force which he later developed to an unusual degree. At ten, he got hold of some type and proceeded to complete his printer's equipment by manufacturing a press out of some wooden boards. For an ink roller, he took a broom handle and wound around it some cloth from his mother's old dress. On that press was actually produced copies of a paper, *The Boys' Gazette*. When he was twelve

CARR V. VAN ANDA

he secured employment at odd times in the local printing establishments, but soon started an amateur shop of his own which he operated after school hours for several years. Returning from college at eighteen, he went to work as foreman for *The Auglaize Republican*, a paper established and owned by W. J. McMurray. He left the Republican in May, 1883, to go to the Cleveland *Herald*, for which paper he had been local correspondent. He was in the composing room of the *Herald*, varying that occupation with a little reporting, until the following autumn, when he was made telegraph editor. He held the same position with the *Plain Dealer* when it absorbed the *Herald*, later going to the *Evening Argus* as news editor. When the *Argus* suspended publication, Mr. Van Anda turned his face eastward. He was offered a place on the Baltimore *Sun* as night editor and served in that capacity for two years. At the age of twenty-four Mr. Van Anda landed in New York and went to the Mecca of all aspiring young newspaper men of that day—Charles A. Dana's *Sun*. He got a place reporting and doing desk work on Blizzard Monday, March 12, 1888. He was made night editor five years later, January 1, 1893. His experience covered the whole news side, as he took Chester A. Lord's place when that great managing editor was away on his vacations. Mr. Van Anda had been on the *Sun* for sixteen years and he stood out as the man for the *Times* when he accepted Adolph Och's offer on February 14, 1904, to be its managing editor. What his service has meant to the *Times* is best told in Mr. Och's own words as quoted from the introduction to "The History of the New York Times" published in 1921 commemorating the quarter-century of the present management and the seventieth anniversary of the first issue of the paper. He refers to Mr. Van Anda as a "notably conspicuous figure whose great contribution to the success of *The New York Times* I desire publicly to acknowledge and express my sense of obligation for the able support in my efforts to make *The New York Times* the best newspaper in the world. To Carr V. Van Anda, who has been managing editor of the *New York Times* for the past eighteen years, to whose exceptional newspaper experience, genius for news-gathering and marvelous appreciation of news value and fidelity to fairness and thoroughness, knowing no friend or foe when presiding over the news pages of the *Times*, the greatest measure of credit is due for the high reputation it has attained for the fullness, trustworthiness and impartiality of its news service. His vigilance and faithfulness to the very highest and best traditions of the newspaper make him a tower of strength to the organization." The application in detail of the principle of publishing "all the news that's fit to print" is in Mr. Van Anda's hands and he puts the accent on the "all." It was he who found the rotogravure process in a German

paper that came to the *Times* office and he went to Frankfort, Germany, to investigate. The result was the adoption of the rotogravure in the Sunday *Times* and marks the beginning of its use in the United States. Upon occasions that move him sufficiently to undertake such work, Mr. Van Anda can write editorials, the point of which no one can misunderstand. But, he is an editor in a different sense from that in which the term is commonly used. As an editor of the daily history of the world, he has won first place in our daily journalism. His intellect is of an acid quality. When news matter is subjected to his process it is purged of nonessentials. He is an artist in gathering and editing the news. This delicate sense of worth in news has produced a result in the *Times* which every reader feels rather than knows. The effect is comparable to that of sincerity in an individual. Mr. Van Anda has a wide range of knowledge. There is no subject upon which he does not have an opinion, which he always makes bold to express without reserve. He has a keen sense of beauty in art and literature and has been known to pen poetical lines of tender sentiment. His relaxation is higher mathematics, delighting in abstruse problems. He has an abundant humor, joyous, mirthful humor; and a modesty that adds to much personal charm and magnetism. Mr. Van Anda has been twice married. The first marriage was on December 16, 1885, to Harriet L. Tupper of Cleveland, Ohio, daughter of an official of the New York, Pennsylvania & Ohio railroad. Her death occurred in 1887, leaving a daughter, Julia Blanche Van Anda. On April 11, 1898, he was married to Louise Shipman Drane, daughter of Judge George Canning Drane of Frankfort, Kentucky. They have one son, Paul Drane Van Anda, who is just finishing a course in Harvard Law School. At Philips Exeter, this son made an absolute A in all six studies—a record never before equaled in the one hundred and thirty years of that school. Mr. Van Anda is a member of the Century Club of New York city. In 1921 Ohio University conferred the degree of Doctor of Laws. In the same year the French government gave him the decoration of the Legion of Honor.

JACOB SWARTZ, a substantial landowner of Goshen township, was born on a farm in Clay township, this county, September 8, 1862, and is a son of Theophilus and Margaret (Linegar) Swartz, the latter of whom was born in Stark county, this state. Theophilus Swartz was born in Germany and was but two years of age when he came to this country with his parents, the family settling in Pennsylvania. They later came to Ohio and became residents of Auglaize county and pioneers of Clay township. Theophilus Swartz grew to manhood in this county and after his marriage settled on a farm in Clay township, where he made his home until in 1880 when he moved to a farm which he had bought in Goshen township and there spent

the remainder of his life. To him and his wife were born nine children. Of these six are still living, the subject of this sketch having a sister, Mary L., and four brothers, John A., George, Benjamin Franklin and James M. Swartz. Reared on the home farm in Clay township, Jacob Swartz received his schooling in the Castle school and was about eighteen years of age when his father moved onto the farm in Goshen township. When he attained his majority he began farming on his own account, farming "on the shares" on the home place, and continued thus engaged until after his marriage, when he and his wife established their home in Clay township. For fourteen years he made his home there, and then he sold that farm and bought 160 acres of his present farm, a part of the old Swartz home place in the southwest corner of Goshen township, and has since resided here. It was on November 15, 1885, that Jacob Swartz was united in marriage to Cora B. Copeland, who also was born in Clay township, daughter of Madison and Catherine (Hullinger) Copeland, and to this union have been born thirteen children, all of whom are living save two—Ormand and one who died in infancy, the others being Allen E., Edma L., Carl F., Clarence R., Wardner, Jacob E., Roger, Lewis V., George C., Norma L. and Beryl M. Six of these children are married. Allen E. Swartz, who is now farming in Licking county, this state, married Leona Focht and has four children, Jesse M., Jennie P., Jacob E. and Philberta. Edma L. Swartz married Marion D. Gross, a farmer of Goshen township, and has three children, Jacob D., Marie M. and Burrell M. Carl F. Swartz, who is now a dispatcher in the coal fields, living at Corning, Ohio, married Sarah Morgan and has four children, Wilbur, Ronald, William A. and Bettie E. Wardner Swartz, who is now teaching school at Cridersville, married Edna Metz and has three children, Catherine, Theresa E. and Wardner, Jr. Beryl M. Swartz married C. Roger Gossard, a farmer of Wayne township, and has two children, Ruth and Roger, and Jacob E. Swartz, who is farming on the home place, married Beryl Gross and has one child, a daughter, Iris Maxine. Mr. Swartz is a Freemason and an Odd Fellow. For thirteen years he served as a member of the school board in Goshen township.

BARTON MERTZ, one of Clay township's landowners living on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Johns, was born in the neighboring township of Union on April 20, 1864, and is a son of Isaac and Eliza Mertz, who were born in Pennsylvania. Following their marriage Isaac Mertz and his wife came out here into western Ohio and settled on a farm of eighty acres in Union township, this county. They were the parents of ten children, of whom but two are now living, the subject of this sketch and his sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Kreitzer, of Wapakoneta. Reared on the home farm in Union township, Barton

Mertz received his schooling in the neighborhood school (the Mertz school) and after his marriage rented a farm down in Shelby county and made his home there for a year, at the end of which time he came back into Auglaize county and rented the farm on which he is now living in Clay township and has ever since resided there. For twelve years Mr. Mertz operated this farm of eighty acres on a rental basis, in the meantime coming into possession of an "eighty" in Union township. He then sold his Union township land and bought the farm on which he had been living for twelve years. He is assisted in the operations of his place by his elder son, Vernon Mertz, who is unmarried and remains on the farm. Mr. Mertz is a Democrat. He is a member of the local lodge of Odd Fellows at St. Johns and he and his wife are members of the Methodist Episcopal church. On December 6, 1890, Barton Mertz was united in marriage to Bertha Chiles, and to this union two sons have been born, Vernon, born on October 13, 1893, and Everett, January 25, 1897, both of whom are veterans of the World War. On February 2, 1920, Everett Mertz married Myrtle Faulder and he and his wife have one child, a daughter, Betty Jean, born on May 30, 1922. Everett Mertz served in the navy during the time of America's participation in the World war. Entering the service on February 15, 1918, he was sent to Great Lakes station (Chicago) and three weeks later was transferred to Hampton Roads. Two weeks later he was sent aboard the battleship New Hampshire and on that vessel served until in October, 1918, when he was returned to Hampton Roads, where he remained until February 3, 1919, when he was assigned to the battleship Oklahoma, where he remained until the following April 16, when he was returned to Great Lakes and there ten days later, April 26, 1919, received his discharge, the war then being over. Vernon Mertz also served in the navy. He entered service on December 6, 1917, and from Great Lakes was assigned to the Brooklyn navy yard where he presently was assigned to the battleship Utah, on which he served until his discharge in August, 1919. Mrs. Bertha Mertz was born in Union township and is a daughter of Greenberry and Lenora (Focht) Chiles, both of whom also were born in the same township, their respective parents having been among the pioneers of that part of this county. Of the five children born to Greenberry Chiles and wife all are living save one daughter, Mary, Mrs. Mertz having two sisters, Nellie and Ora, and a brother, Stanley Chiles.

DR. EDWARD F. HEFFNER, one of the best known physicians in Auglaize county, former coroner of this county and a resident of Wapakoneta for nearly twenty years past, was born at Celina, in the neighboring county of Mercer, May 11, 1881, and is a son of George H. and Lucinda (Karch) Heffner, both of whom are still living at

Celina and the latter of whom was born at Marysville, the county seat of Union county, this state, December 12, 1860. George H. Heffner is a member of one of the pioneer families of Mercer county and was born in Black Creek township, that county, July 21, 1851. He was reared in that county and for years gave his attention to general contracting but of late years has devoted his attention exclusively to street paving. He served for five years (1890-95) as sheriff of Mercer county and has a wide acquaintance throughout this part of the state. To him and his wife were born four children, one of whom, Edith, the only daughter, died in infancy, Doctor Heffner having two brothers, Ralph R. and Dr. F. C. Heffner, the latter of whom is an eye, ear and nose specialist practicing at Cincinnati. Reared at Celina, Dr. Edward F. Heffner was graduated from the high school there in 1900 and in September of that same year entered Starling Medical College at Columbus. A year later he entered the medical department of the University of Cincinnati and on May 25, 1904, was graduated from that institution with the degree of Doctor of Medicine, his studies in the university having been advanced by private tutoring in several of the more important branches of medical science. Thus qualified for the practice of the profession to which he had devoted his life, Doctor Heffner cast about for a likely place in which to engage in practice and on November 1, 1904, opened an office at Wapakoneta, where he ever since has been engaged in practice and where, as was said of him in a local review written some years ago, he "has a reputation (as a physician and surgeon) which might well be the envy of many of the older men of his profession." The Doctor is a close student and keeps fully abreast of modern advances in his profession. His university work was supplemented by a service of six months as surgical assistant to Dr. C. L. Bonifield, of Cincinnati. He is a member of the Auglaize County Medical Society, of the Ohio State Medical Society and of the American Medical Association and in the deliberations of these several bodies takes an active interest. The Doctor is a Democrat and served for one term and a year (1905-8) as coroner of the county, but on account of the pressing character of his professional duties was compelled to decline further public service. He is a Freemason, affiliated with the local lodge of the Masonic order at Wapakoneta, and is also a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks at Wapakoneta, while he and his wife are members of First English Lutheran church, of which congregation Doctor Heffner has been an elder for the past seventeen years. On November 7, 1901, Dr. Edward F. Heffner was united in marriage to Ora Collins, who was born at Mendon, in Mercer county, April 4, 1882, daughter of Frank and Elvira Collins, and to this union have been born three children,

Cleon Collins, who died at the age of three years, and George Paul and Margaret Virginia. Doctor and Mrs. Heffner have a very pleasant home at Wapakoneta and take an interested and helpful part in the general social and cultural activities of the community.

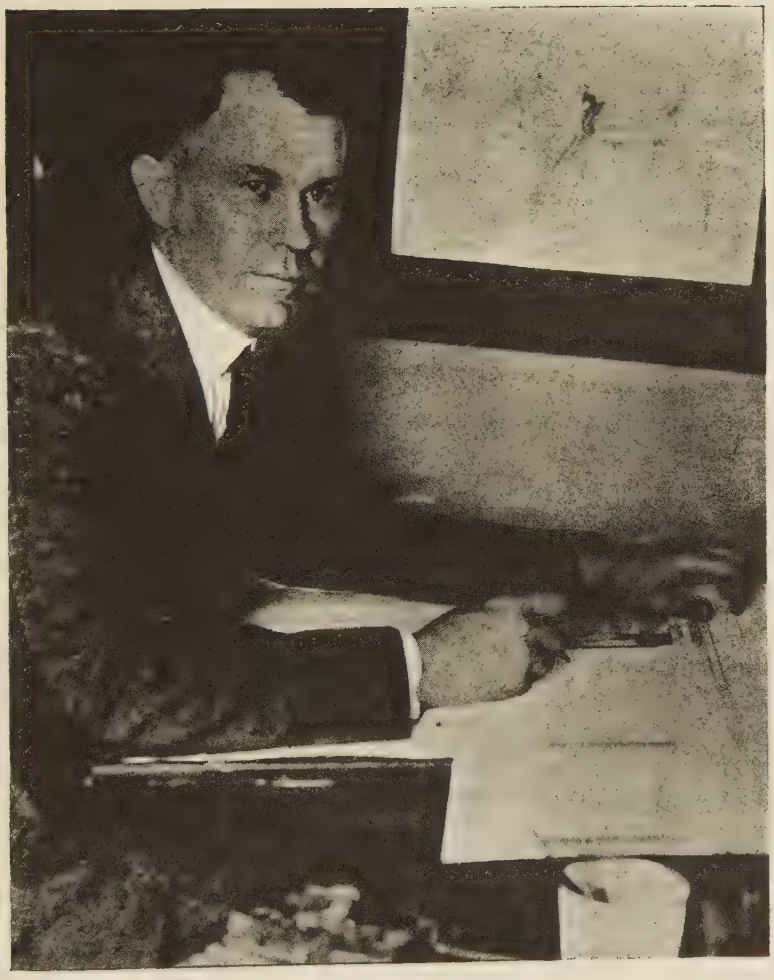
JOSEPH ALBERT KRABACH, of the firm of Bowsher & Krabach, public accountants at Wapakoneta, and former deputy county auditor, who in the campaign of 1922 was the nominee of the Democratic party for the office of county auditor, is a native son of Auglaize county and has resided here all his life, a resident of Wapakoneta since the days of his boyhood. Mr. Krabach was born on a farm in Clay township on June 4, 1885, and is a son of Joseph and Magdalena (Altenburger) Krabach, both of whom also were born in Ohio and the latter of whom is still living, making her home at Wapakoneta. She was born in Stark county, a daughter, of Peter Altenburger, a native of Germany, who later became a resident of Auglaize county and whose last days were spent here. The late Joseph Krabach was born at Monroeville, in Huron county, his father, a native of Germany, having been one of the pioneers of that county, and there he received his schooling. He remained there until in the days of his young manhood when he came with his parents to Auglaize county, the family locating on a farm in Clay township, and on this farm he made his home until his marriage to Magdalena Altenburger. After his marriage Joseph Krabach began farming on his own account in Clay township and remained there until 1893, when he moved to Wapakoneta and became employed in the plants of the wheel works and in the churn factory, and in that city spent his last days, his death occurring in 1916. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, five of whom grew to maturity, those besides the subject of this sketch being William L., Fred, of Terre Haute, Ind., Elizabeth (deceased) and Clara, wife of Carl Vossler. Joseph A. Krabach was about eight years of age when he moved to Wapakoneta with his parents in 1893, and upon completing the course in St. Joseph's parochial school there he took a course in the business college at Lima and then became employed as a bookkeeper in the office of the *Democrat* at Wapakoneta, he having made a specialty of bookkeeping and accountancy. That was in 1905. When Adam Schaffer, proprietor of the *Democrat,* entered upon the duties of the office of county auditor, to which he had been elected, in January, 1911, Mr. Krabach was transferred from the newspaper office to the auditor's office and was appointed by Mr. Schaffer to be a clerk in the auditor's office. When Mr. Langhorst became county auditor he was appointed first deputy and was retained in that position when Charles E. Fisher became auditor in 1917. He remained in the office as Mr. Fisher's deputy until on November 30, 1920, when he resigned to accept the position as a traveling accountant for the Ohio Central Equity Exchange. In the following February he formed a partnership with

H. F. Bowsher and he and Mr. Bowsher took over the auditing department of the Ohio Central Equity Exchange, at the same time becoming general public accountants, under the firm name of Bowsher & Krabach, with offices in Lima, and Mr. Krabach has since been thus engaged. On June 14, 1911, not long after becoming engaged in the county auditor's office, Joseph A. Krabach was united in marriage to Eleanor Catherine Tebben, of Celina, Ohio, and to this union two children have been born, Richard Lowell and Rita Marie. Mr. and Mrs. Krabach are members of St. Joseph's Catholic church at Wapakoneta and Mr. Krabach has served as secretary of the parish. He is a past grand knight of the local council of the Knights of Columbus and since 1916 has served as district deputy of this order for the northwestern Ohio district. He also is affiliated with the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks and with the local aerie of the Fraternal Order of Eagles. The Krabachs have a very pleasant home at 206 West Benton street. Mrs. Krabach was born at Celina, where she was reared, and is a daughter of Henry and Mary (Klinkhamer) Tebben, the latter of whom was born at Minster, this county, a daughter of John and Mary Klinkhamer. Henry Tebben was born in the neighboring county of Mercer and is a son of Henry Tebben, a native of Germany, who became a resident of Mercer county following his arrival in this country. To the junior Henry Tebben and wife were born six children, Mrs. Krabach having three sisters, Katherine, wife of Clarence Rinehart; Frances, wife of A. A. Stolly, and Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Bucks, and two brothers, Joseph and Anthony Tebben.

FRED MOELLER, one of the well known farmers of the New Bremen neighborhood, was born on the farm on which he is now living on July 27, 1878, and is a son of Herman and Luzetta (Wehie) Moeller, both of whom were born in Germany. The late Herman Moeller was but twelve years of age when he came to America with his parents, the family settling on a farm in the New Bremen neighborhood. There he grew to manhood and after his marriage became established as a farmer on his own account. He became the owner of a farm of 120 acres and there remained engaged in active farming until his retirement and removal to New Bremen, where he died about two years later. He and his wife were the parents of ten children, those besides the subject of this sketch being Ernest, Henry, Minnie, Sophia, Chris, William, Mary, Cort and Martha. Reared on the home farm in the immediate vicinity of New Bremen, Fred Moeller received his schooling in the New Bremen schools. Upon his father's retirement from the farm he took over the direction of the same and ever since has been farming the place. On April 11, 1901, Fred Moeller was united in marriage to Anna Fennaman, daughter of Fred and Juliana (Neuman) Fennaman, of this county, and to this

union four children have been born, Edgar, Carl, Wilson and Elton. The Moellers have a pleasant home on rural mail route No. 2 out of Minster. Mr. and Mrs. Moeller are members of St. Peter's Evangelical church at New Bremen and are Democrats.

CAREY CASSIUS ORR, one of the most widely known cartoonists in the country, is an Auglaize county man whose interest in his old home county and particularly in the affairs of the Uniopolis neighborhood, where he was reared, has never waned. Mr. Orr was born on January 17, 1890, and is a son of Cassius Perry and Martha (Rinehart) Orr, both members of old families in the neighborhood of Uniopolis. He early evinced his interest in art work and after completing his studies in the Academy of Fine Arts at Chicago entered upon his successful career as a cartoonist, his first work being done for the Chicago *Examiner* in 1912. In that same year he went to Nashville, Tenn., and on the *Tennesseean* and *American* was engaged in that city until 1917, when he became connected with the staff of the Chicago *Tribune*, with which he since has been connected. Mr. Orr is the creator of "The Tiny Tribune" and of "Kernel Cootie." In 1918 he was awarded the United States government gold medal for the prize-winning cartoon of the Fourth Liberty Loan. He is a Republican, a York Rite Mason and a noble of the Ancient Arabic Order of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine. On March 25, 1914, at Nashville, Tenn., Carey C. Orr was united in marriage to Cherry Maud Kindel, of that city. They have two daughters, Dorothy Jane and Cherry Sue. Those in this community who knew Carey Orr as a boy were not surprised when it became apparent that he had achieved distincton as a cartoonist, as he had exhibited unusual talent while yet a small lad, while attending school in this county. A number of persons in this county have in their possession drawings which Carey drew when he was a school boy of tender years which were so clever as to attract general attention among his friends. To his early childhood experiences on the farm near Uniopolis Mr. Orr attributes much of the success which has attended his after years. "Farm ideas," he says, "are always popular with the readers of metropolitan papers and I have at times used bits of actual scenery around Uniopolis for my cartoons." Mr. Orr's mother died when he was two years of age and he was reared in the home of his maternal grandfather, A. P. Rinehart, in the Uniopolis neighborhood, where he remained until in 1904, when he accompanied his father to Spokane, Wash. It was in 1911 that he began his art studies in Chicago and it was in the following year, as set out above, that he entered upon his definite career as a newspaper artist, his particular field being the political cartoon. His father, Cassius P. Orr, a formerly well known timber man of this



CAREY C. ORR

county, also for some years prior to his removal to Spokane was proprietor of a restaurant in Wapakoneta. Mr. Orr did not live with his father in Wapakoneta but remained with his grandfather on the farm and attended school in the village of Uniopolis, the late John W. Howe being his instructor, also "Tipp" Howe and Miss Cora Kent. His uncle, F. J. Rinehart, taught him the rudiments of drawing. Bob Ewing was his favorite youthful hero and gave him the incentive to be a baseball pitcher, which he later became, paying his way through art school with the money he earned as a pitcher. In a delightfully reminiscent letter Mr. Orr recalls his skating, fishing and swimming days along the Auglaize. "Every fall," he says, "I used to attend the Auglaize county fair at Wapakoneta. In all my journeying over the world I never was lost but once and that was at Wapakoneta at the county fair. My idea as a kid was that Wapakoneta was a tremendous big city and I never think of it now but that it seems much larger than either Chicago or New York. The idea I got as a kid has always stuck to me."

SAMUEL WILLIAMS, a former trustee of Logan township and proprietor of a farm two or three miles west of Buckland, was born in a log cabin home in the woods not far from the site of his present home in Logan township on April 12, 1862, and is a son of Lebbeus and Anna (Nevel) Williams, who had come here from Tuscarawas county about four years before that date. The late Lebbeus Williams was born in Tuscarawas county in 1836 and was a son of Silas and Sarah Williams, the former of whom also was born in that county. Lebbeus Williams remained on the home place in Tuscarawas county until he had attained his majority, when he came over into this part of the state and became engaged in farming in Allen county. There he remained until 1858, in which year he moved down into Auglaize county and established his home on a timber tract of eighty acres he had bought in Logan township. As his affairs prospered he bought more land until he became the owner of 184 acres, and on that place made his home until his retirement from the farm in 1920 and removal to Petroleum, Ind., where his last days were spent, his death occurring there in the next year, 1921, he then being eighty-five years of age. To him and his wife were born three sons, the subject of this sketch having two brothers, Israel and Isaac. Reared on the farm on which he was born, Samuel Williams received his schooling in the neighborhood schools, and remained at home until after his marriage at the age of twenty-eight, when his father gave him a tract of twenty acres of the home farm, the nucleus of his present farm, and there he established his home and has ever since resided. Mr. Williams has added to his original tract until now he is the owner of 164 acres. He is a Republican and has served three terms as one of the trustees of

Logan township. He is a member of the Buckland Christian church, as was his wife, who died on October 27, 1920. It was on September 18, 1890, that Samuel Williams was united in marriage to Alfarata Shrader, who was born in Howard county, Indiana, and to this union three children were born, Lulu, Goldie and Eunice, the latter of whom married Fred B. Carmean and is living on the home place. Mr. and Mrs. Carmean have one child, a son, James. Lulu Williams married Louis Fritz, of Lima, Ohio, and has two children, Frederick and Mary Frances. Goldie Williams married Carl Tester, of Wapakoneta. The Williams home is situated on rural mail route No. 7 out of Wapakoneta.

JULIUS W. LUEDEKE, a well known farmer and stockman of St. Marys township, proprietor of a farm on rural mail route No. 4 out of St. Marys, was born on a farm in Van Buren township in the neighboring county of Shelby, January 8, 1886, and is a son of August and Anna (Kawel) Luedeke, both of whom also were born in Ohio, the former in Auglaize county and the latter in Mercer county. The late August Luedeke was reared in Auglaize county and was married in Mercer county. Following his marriage he established his home on a farm in Van Buren township in Shelby county and there spent the remainder of his life, his death occurring in 1904. To him and his wife were born five children, all of whom are still living, the subject of this sketch having three sisters, Alice, Laura and Mahalia, and a brother, Frank Luedeke. Reared on the home farm in Shelby county, Julius W. Luedeke received his schooling in the neighborhood schools. He married at the age of twenty-three years and after his marriage was engaged in farming as a tenant farmer for about six years, at the end of which time he bought the interests of the other heirs in the home place of seventy-five acres in Shelby county and was there engaged in farming until in February, 1920, when he moved onto the farm of 135 acres in St. Marys township, this county, which he had bought the year before (in August, 1919), and has since made his home there. Not long after buying his present farm he sold his Shelby county farm and has since given his whole attention to his farm in this county. He makes a specialty of raising pure bred Duroc Jersey hogs. Mr. Luedeke and his wife are members of St. Paul's Reformed church at St. Marys and are Democrats. It was on August 25, 1909, that Julius W. Luedeke was united in marriage to Amanda Bloomhorst, of Shelby county, and to this union have been born five children, Arnold, Lester, Elmer, Andrew and Henriette. Mrs. Luedeke was born in Van Buren township, Shelby county, and is a daughter of William and Henriette (Hirshfeld) Bloomhorst.

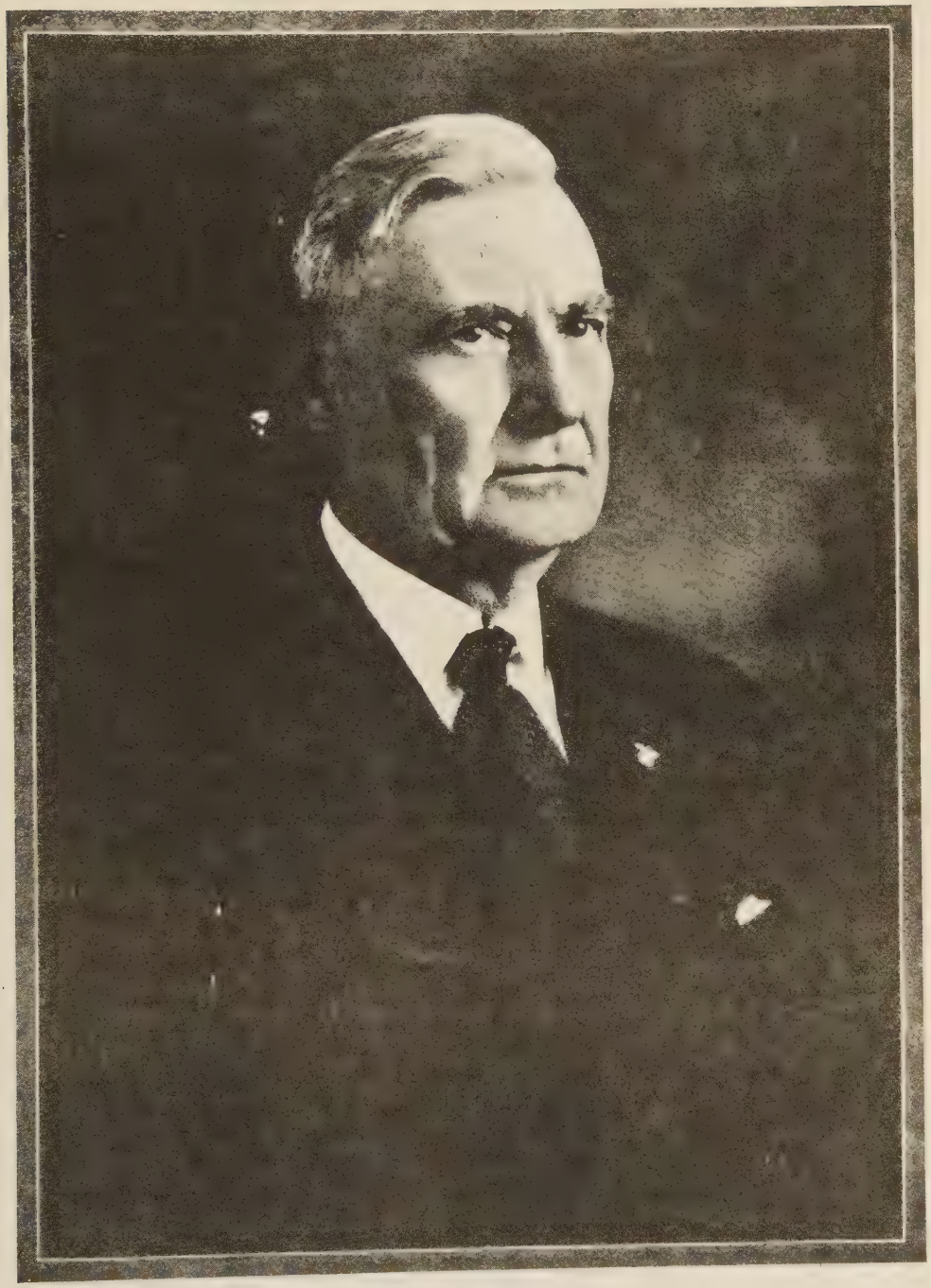
JOSEPH KINSTLE, proprietor of a farm on rural mail route No. 1 out of St. Johns in Clay township, was born in Clay township

on July 1, 1874, and is a son of Wendeln and Catherine (Leininger) Kinstle, both of whom also were born in that township. The late Wendeln Kinstle was a son of Severin and Susanna Kinstle, natives of Germany, the former born on October 22, 1821, and the latter August 11, 1820. They were married in their native country and then, in the '40s of the past century, came to America and proceeded on out into western Ohio and settled on a farm of forty acres in Clay township, this county. Severin Kinstle, the pioneer, did well at his farming and became the owner of a considerable tract of land in Clay township. There he and his wife spent their last days, the former dying on December 5, 1908, and the latter on September 24, 1899. It was on that pioneer farm that Wendeln Kinstle was born and reared. After his marriage he settled down to farming and became the owner of 300 acres of land in Clay and Pusheta townships. He and his wife were members of St. John's Catholic church at Freyburg and their children were reared in that faith. There were ten of these children, all of whom are living save one, who died in infancy, the subject of this sketch having four sisters, Susanna, Mary, Caroline and Theresa, and four brothers, Edward, George, Lawrence and Carl Kinstle. Reared on the home farm in Clay township, Joseph Kinstle received his schooling in the neighborhood school there (district No. 8) and in the parochial school at Freyburg. After his marriage he began farming on his own account as a renter. Seven years later he bought forty acres of his present farm in Clay township and has since added to that until now he is the owner of 200 acres. Mr. Kinstle is a Democrat and he and his family are affiliated with St. John's Catholic church at Freyburg. On January 1, 1898, Joseph Kinstle was united in marriage to Barbara Meier and to this union nine children have been born, Edwin, Otto, Raymond, Clarence, Harold, Leonard, Viola, Laurette and Marie. Mrs. Barbara Kinstle was born in Pusheta township on April 24, 1875, and received her schooling in the Weimert school and in the schools at Freyburg. She is a daughter of William and Henrietta (Beaver) Meier, both of whom were born in this county, the former in Pusheta township and the latter in Clay township. William Meier was the owner of a farm of 100 acres.

WALTER E. FLEMING, general manager of the plant and offices of the Wapakoneta Telephone Company, has been for more than twenty years actively connected with the telephone interests of that city. Mr. Fleming was born on a farm in Auglaize county on October 3, 1882, a son of Thomas J. and Mary C. (Bobb) Fleming, both of whom also were born in this county. Thomas J. Fleming followed farming for some years after his marriage and then moved to Wapakoneta, where he became engaged as a contractor and has

ever since been thus engaged. Walter E. Fleming was but a lad when his parents moved to the county seat town and he received his schooling in the schools of Wapakoneta. Following his graduation from the high school he became engaged as a clerk in a grocery store and was thus engaged for one year, at the end of which time he took service with the local telephone company as night operator. This was on November 11, 1900, Mr. Fleming then being eighteen years of age. In 1904 he was made manager of the company's interests at Wapakoneta. In proper time the present up-to-date installation was effected in the telephone company's modern building on Willipie street and Wapakoneta has long been in a position to pride itself upon the efficient service rendered through that medium. Walter E. Fleming married Bertha Shibes, daughter of Mrs. Bertha Shibes, and to this union three children have been born, Caroline Dorothy, George and Mary Caroline. Mr. and Mrs. Fleming are members of the First Lutheran church and Mr. Fleming has served as a member of the official council of the church. He is a Democrat and is a member of the local lodges of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

WILLIAM S. ROGERS, president and general manager of the Timmermeister & Rogers Company, dealers in dry goods at Wapakoneta, one of the old established commercial firms of that city, former head of the old Wapakoneta Commercial club and for years regarded as one of the leading factors in the commercial life of Auglaize county, is a native son of this county, a member of one of the real pioneer families here, and has resided here all his life, helpfully identified with the business interests of Wapakoneta since the days of his young manhood. Mr. Rogers was born in the village of St. Johns on April 16, 1860, and is a son of George M. and Hannah (Bitler) Rogers, whose respective parents were among the founders of that village, as is set out elsewhere in this work, both the Rogers and the Bitler families having settled at the site of the old Blackhoof Indian village there the year following the departure of the Indians from this section in 1832, that part of what is now Auglaize county then having been attached to Allen county, and these two pioneer families are still prominently represented throughout the county. Reared at St. Johns, William S. Rogers completed his public schooling in the Wapakoneta schools and then entered the college of the Methodist Episcopal church at Adrian, Mich., where he continued his studies for two years, at the end of which time he returned to Wapakoneta and in that city became engaged as a clerk in the Kolter grocery store. Not long afterward he transferred his services to the Kiefer grocery store and after some years of service there took up the clothing line in the Levi clothing store. This form of merchandising proved much more to his liking than groceries and not long afterward he formed a partnership with



WILLIAM S. ROGERS

C. B. Benner and purchased the Blume clothing store, and was thus engaged in business until in 1899, when he formed a partnership with C. W. Timmermeister, under the firm name of the Timmermeister & Rogers Company, was made president and general manager of the concern, and has since been thus engaged in business, one of the best known merchants in this section of Ohio. Mr. Rogers served for some time as chairman of the old Wapakoneta Commercial Club, now the Chamber of Commerce, and has for years been one of the really vital factors in the development of the commercial interests of his home town. He also has ever given a good citizen's attention to local civic affairs and for some years rendered public service as a member of the city council. For twelve years he served as a member of the board of control of the Ohio State reformatory, appointed by Governor Nash and reappointed by Governor Harris, and was for two years president of the board. Mr. Rogers is a Freemason and a member of the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. In 1891 William S. Rogers was united in marriage to Lulu M. Timmermeister, also a member of one of the old families of this county, and to this union were born two sons, Roland H. and Frederick G. Rogers, both of whom are taking an active interest in their father's commercial enterprises, associated with their father in the old established dry goods business at Wapakoneta. Roland H. Rogers served for two years and eight months with the 10th United States Cavalry, stationed at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, and was retired with a commission as captain.

WILLIAM JAMES McMURRAY, whose name appears on the title page of this work and to whose thoughtful editorial supervision of the historical section of this History of Auglaize County the publishers are under many obligations of gratitude, was born near Newport, Ky., October 17, 1849, the youngest child and son of Robert and Mary (Hurst) McMurray, both of whom were natives of England. Mr. McMurray's paternal grandparents deserve special mention in a review of this character, not only because of their own worth, but because they cared for the subject of this sketch for many years and left upon him the impress of their Spartan character and unconquerable spirit. The grandmother, Sophia (Heywood) McMurray, was born in Liverpool, England, in 1789, and died at her home in Wapakoneta on September 17, 1877, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. Fortunate in receiving a good education in her youth, and of a pleasing disposition and beautiful, she made many friends among all classes of people—the rich and the poor alike. She toured Wales in company with well-to-do friends while still a young girl and remained in that country long enough to speak fluently the Welsh language. She was married at an early age to Robert McMurray, in the city of Edinburg, Scotland, and later located at Wigton, a suburb of the city of Carlisle, England. Here they conducted a general store, and chose for their residence a house located on the banks of the river

Eden, near the Carlisle bridge and in close proximity to the Carlisle Castle, famous in the history of England and Scotland. Here they lived until in the course of time they resolved to seek a home in the United States with the hope that their children might have better opportunities. They decided that it would be an act of wisdom for the husband and father, together with the eldest son, Robert (father of our subject) to go in advance and remain a year or two and if they thought the family could do better in America the father would send for them. This plan was carried out and the grandmother of our subject sold their real estate and chattels and with eight children left for Liverpool to take a sailing vessel for America. While in that city awaiting the departure of the sailing vessel two of the children became afflicted with smallpox, which was epidemic in the port, and both of them died. It was many weeks before they were out of quarantine and enabled to sail, but finally the heartbroken mother and their children bid farewell to the mother country and set their faces westward, little realizing that they had other sorrows to face. During the voyage, which lasted twelve weeks, two of the remaining children took sick and she was compelled to witness their burial at sea. The father and the eldest son met the family at Castle Garden with great joy and yet with sad hearts when they learned of the deaths of four of the children. The elder Robert McMurray upon landing in America had placed his eldest son, Robert, in school in New York city and had sought employment for himself, securing a position as superintendent of a cotton factory. The family later moved to Philadelphia, where they resided a number of years, and then located in Newport, Ky. Here they lived until their removal to Dayton, Ohio, where the elder McMurray became proprietor of the popular hotel in those days, known as the Mansion House. He was financially successful in this venture, but after some years he sold his holdings in Dayton and bought a farm in Auglaize county on the line between this and Shelby county, where he was successful as a stockman. He sold this farm in 1852, and, together with his wife, made a trip to New York city to visit Crystal Palace Fair, and upon their return located in Wapakoneta, where they spent the remainder of their days. William J. McMurray's mother, Mary Hurst, was born in Manchester, England, April 2, 1818, and emigrated to the United States with her parents in 1831. The family located in Philadelphia, Pa., where they remained for a few years, and then removed to Newport, Ky., where in 1840 she was united in marriage to Robert McMurray II. She was a woman of deep religious convictions and one of the sweetest Christian characters ever met. Mr. McMurray was deeply devoted to his mother and was greatly affected by her death which occurred on Saturday, October 24, 1896. She was a lady of whom it has been said that she never spoke an unkind word of anyone. Her parents, who came to this country from Manchester, England, were typical

Lancashire people and spoke English with a pronounced Lancashire dialect. After living in Newport, Ky., for some years the Hursts moved to a tract of land which Mr. Hurst had bought in the vicinity of Grants Lick, in Campbell county, Kentucky, where the family lived contentedly until an accident befell Mr. Hurst while returning from Alexandria, which resulted in his death. Mrs. Hurst lived until eighty-eight years of age, cared for in her declining years by a devoted daughter, Jane E. (Hurst) Darlington. Mr. McMurray, while a resident of Covington, spent several years of his childhood with his maternal grandmother and his aunt, and he reveres their memory for their sturdy honesty and Christian character. Mr. McMurray was but an infant when bereaved by death of his father and he thus never knew what it was to have a father's care. The father had been educated for the law and had bright prospects before him when called hence. It might properly here be said that Mr. McMurray's paternal grandfather (Robert McMurray I) favored higher education. But two of his children, however, took advantage of the opportunity thus offered, Mr. McMurray's father, Robert, and the eldest daughter, Margaret, who became the wife of Frederick A. P. Barnard, D. D., LL.D., then a professor in the University of Alabama and later president of the University of Mississippi, and after the Civil war for many years president of Columbia University, New York city. Mrs. Margaret (McMurray) Barnard was a woman of strong character, high intellectual attainments, brilliant in conversation, and her Wednesday evening entertainments at the president's home were attended by leading statesmen and distinguished authors. William J. McMurray was the last born of the children born to his worthy parents and is the only child of that union now living. Robert McMurray III, the elder brother, distinguished himself during the Civil war as a captain in the 67th regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry. At the close of the war he was provost marshal of five counties in Virginia, including the city of Richmond. After the war he became postmaster of Wapakoneta, served two terms as recorder of Auglaize county, was admitted to the bar, was elected mayor and achieved distinction as the law-enforcing mayor of Wapakoneta, as is set out elsewhere in this work. The only daughter, Sophia, became the wife of Andrew Jackson Morey, and was the mother of six children, five of whom are living. William James McMurray attended private schools in Newport and Covington, Ky., in his younger days, and also one term in a select school while spending a summer with an aunt near Grants Lick, Campbell county, Kentucky. In the year 1859 he accompanied his mother and sister in their removal to Wapakoneta, the elder brother having preceded them, this change having been undertaken at the request of the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert McMurray, Sr. After coming to Ohio the family lived at St. Marys for several years, where William J. McMurray attended school for one year, and then

came to Wapakoneta, where he lived with his grandparents, inasmuch as they wanted one of their grandchildren to remain with them for company. He attended the public schools of Wapakoneta for six years and in the spring of 1867 accepted a position tendered him as a clerk in John Shawber's dry goods store, where he served his employer faithfully for twelve years, relinquishing the position for a period of rest. During his twelve years of service as salesman, by the practice of self-denial and frugality, Mr. McMurray had saved enough money to purchase a farm of forty-five acres near the village and thus became a real estate owner and had established a high credit for promptness in meeting obligations as well as for his responsibility. It is not too much to say that this credit and responsibility he has maintained throughout his long and honorable career in business. During his rest period, before embarking in larger business undertakings, Mr. McMurray spent much of his time in reading, and was later seized with the wanderlust of his forbears. Accordingly, in the winter of 1880-1, in company with a friend, he planned a trip to the West Indies, to satisfy a longing desire to spend a winter in the tropics. After spending some time in the southern cities, he and his companion sailed from Pensacola, Fla., for Havana, Cuba. While on this trip they made their headquarters at the Hotel Frances in Havana, making occasional trips in the interior. Mr. McMurray, in after life, has frequently spoken of the visit to this wonderful island as being one of the most interesting and profitable experiences of his life. Returning from Cuba in May, 1881, Mr. McMurray was besieged by prominent Republicans who urged him to establish a new Republican newspaper in Wapakoneta, one that would be loyal to the party in the nation. At this time he had no experience in the printing or publishing business other than being an occasional contributor to the local and city press, and besides, he had about made up his mind to locate in Birmingham, Alabama, which he foresaw was to become a large commercial city through its iron industries. The pressure, however, became so great that he reluctantly agreed to start a newspaper, fully realizing the difficulties that he would have to overcome. He secured a partner in the person of Robert Sutton, who at that time was engaged in getting out an atlas of Auglaize county. They issued the first number of the paper, *The Auglaize Republican,* a weekly publication, on August 18, 1881, and it has been regularly issued ever since. This partnership lasted about two years, when Mr. McMurray bought the interest of his partner and edited the paper alone until 1887, when he sold a half interest to William Duvall, a very capable newspaper man and a young man of high character. This partnership continued until 1890, when Mr. Duvall sold his interest to enable him to purchase the plant of the *Union-Herald* at Circleville, Ohio. Mr. McMurray then became sole owner of *The Auglaize Republican,* and he conducted the paper alone until 1915, when he sold

the plant to William B. Morey and Charles Sumner Whiteman, the former a nephew and the latter a nephew by marriage. Mr. McMurray has never held public office. He has been the nominee of his party for various positions, but being the candidate of the minority party, he was each time defeated. At the Fourth district Republican congressional convention in Lima on May 4, 1892, he was chosen presidential elector for the district comprising Allen, Auglaize, Darke, Mercer and Shelby counties and was elected by a large majority, while one of the Republican electors was defeated. When the electoral college met in Columbus in January, 1893, to cast the vote of Ohio for President and Vice President of the United States, Mr. McMurray was honored by being chosen the messenger to carry the returns to Washington. Arriving at the national capitol, he called on Vice-President Levi P. Morton, who received him in his private office, and he delivered to him the sealed package containing the election returns from Ohio. The Vice President was very courteous and asked him questions concerning conditions in general throughout the Middle West. Having been too young to enter the service of his country during the Civil war, Mr. McMurray has no military record. He served five years, however, in the Ohio National Guard as a non-commissioned officer under Capt. F. C. Layton in the 2d regiment, Ohio National Guard, and later in the 11th regiment, Ohio National Guard. Mr. McMurray has always been a staunch Republican, but has never been regarded as a bitter partisan. Although the publisher of a Republican newspaper he always respected the opinions of those who differed with him politically, and he never lost a friend that he was aware of on account of politics. His well known spirit of fairness and justice to all alike won for him the respect and esteem of all with whom he came in contact. Though never having held public office, Mr. McMurray has held many offices of trust and honor in civic and industrial organizations, which well illustrate the place he has among business men of Wapakoneta. He was president of the Business Men's Club for a number of years and later of the Commercial Club, during the time the hollow ware factory and the Western Ohio shops were secured for Wapakoneta. He has been a member of the directorate for many years of various incorporated companies in which he was financially interested, and at the present time is a member of the directorate and president of the Auglaize National Bank, a member of the directorate and president of the Citizens' Building and Loan Company, and a member of the directorate and president of the New Wapakoneta Wheel Company, one of the largest industrial establishments in the county. Mr. McMurray is a charter member of Duchouquet lodge, No. 165, Knights of Pythias, and at the present time is a member of the board of trustees of that organization. He is also a member of the Country Club. Having united with the First English Lutheran church at the age of fourteen years,

Mr. McMurray has been a faithful and devoted member ever since, and for more than fifty years has been a member of the choir of the same church. He is still active in church councils and continues as a member of the vested choir, very seldom, and never unless his health forbids, being absent from the choir loft. He has also been a member of the Sunday school for the same length of time and at present is teacher of the men's Bible class.. On May 31, 1912, William J. McMurray was united in marriage to Louise Nagel, daughter of Philip and Hermania (Menges) Nagel of Wapakoneta, the marriage taking place at Knightstown, Ind., where the bride at the time was visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. Ray W. Hussey. Mrs. McMurray passed away on March 4, 1914, after a married life of less than two years. She was a lady of rare Christian character, refined and intelligent, active in church work and a devoted wife. Her death was deeply mourned by her bereaved husband. Though having passed the meridian of life, Mr. McMurray is still active in business and civic affairs. He is in a position, however, to look back complacently on the past as years of honorable industry spent in the service of others and for civic betterment. And this service has brought its reward, for it is believed that it will not be regarded invidiously in the community to say that not only has he been honored with positions of trust and responsibility, but that he has won for himself a name which stands second to none in the county for conservatism and honesty in business and upright conduct and devotion to duty as a citizen.

HISTORY

of

AUGLAIZE COUNTY

VOLUMN II

by

WILLIAM J. McMURRAY

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